

## Headlines



### Thompson will tough it out

USC Women's basketball top scorer Tina Thompson will play tonight despite a strained shoulder. Men's center Avondre Jones is back but won't play against Arizona State.

Sports, page 24

### Minor flaws mar big budget drama

Despite superb production values, "City Hall" still can't deliver the goods. Starring Al Pacino, John Cusack and Bridget Fonda, the film has been long delayed and much anticipated.

Diversions, page 12

### University isolates Local 11 Union

While the university espouses interaction with its surrounding community, Viewpoint writers Lupe Chavez and Sal Panuco think that should extend to the workers' union.

Viewpoint, page 4

## F.Y.I.

### Volunteer project in Downtown LA

"Doingsomething," a non-profit volunteer network, is holding a community service project Saturday, Feb. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. The project is open for anyone interested in participating.

Volunteers will help sort and package donated food items at a food bank that distributes food to more than 600 charitable agencies including various shelters, soup kitchens and more. They will work side by side in a warehouse full of food donated by local markets and others.

Afterwards, volunteers are invited to a luncheon at a downtown restaurant.

"Doingsomething" holds community service projects year-round, and publishes a monthly newsletter announcing upcoming projects. Most projects last about four hours or less.

For more information, call the "Doingsomething" hotline at (310) 391-3907.

# Daily Trojan

## Protesters call for partner policy



Demonstrators picket for the university administration to approve benefits for domestic partnerships Wednesday afternoon in Hahn Plaza.

Laura Lanchester / Daily Trojan

By Jonathan Atienza  
Staff Writer

Students marched in front of Tommy Trojan Wednesday afternoon, demanding that the administration approve domestic partnership benefits for students, faculty and staff. Some university organizations have campaigned against the benefits for over a year.

Some benefits at stake include health insurance, access to health and counseling centers, housing and library and recreational facility privileges.

USC currently provides different benefit packages to the families of married students and married faculty and staff members.

"We're here to help the faculty and staff drive for partnership benefits as well as to introduce our own policy for students," said Karin Kimby, a graduate student and co-chair of the student task force that organized the student campaign.

For nearly an hour, more than a dozen marchers circled through the center of campus chanting slogans, while others handed

(See Protest, page 16)

## Stu-Q hopefuls debate

By Jovie Baclayon  
Staff Writer

Seven Student Senate candidates on the Student Community ballot debated community relations and answered questions Wednesday afternoon in E.F. Hutton Park.

The seven candidates answered questions regarding campus safety, university image and activity programming from Community Senator Noemi Perez, Program Board Executive Director Sarah Szalavitz and community constituency member Troy Flowers.

"I heard everything I wanted to hear today," said Szalavitz, a senior majoring in political science. "(The candi-

(See Debate, page 2)

## Health Center recommends mandatory insurance plan

*Students without coverage could be required to purchase for fall semester*

By Esther Ramirios  
Staff Writer

Health insurance coverage may soon become mandatory for all USC students. Coverage is currently only required for international students and students at the Health Sciences campus.

According to Lawrence Neinstein, executive director of the Student Health Center, "the plan is just in the discussion phase." The proposal would make it mandatory for students who lack medical insurance to purchase at least a minimal plan. Coverage would cost between \$500 to \$600 for three semesters.

Students have mixed opinions on the proposed insurance plan.

"This is just another way for USC to get more money out of people's pockets," said freshman Evelia Guterrez.

*"(Currently) fifteen percent of students are uninsured. If they get hurt, they can't get help."*

- Lawrence Neinstein

"If you don't already have insurance it's for a reason—you just can't afford it."

"The mandatory health insurance is a good thing," said Michael Ribak, a senior. "This

way, if (students) get hurt and have to be treated anyways, the taxpayers don't have to pay for it."

The mandatory university insurance would cover the costs of consultations, surgeries and diagnostic tests like cranial axial tomography (CAT) scans, electroencephalograms, magnetic resonance imaging and other high-tech procedures. If approved, the plan would most likely take effect during the fall 1997 semester.

Students who are already covered by another form of insurance would not be required to pay the insurance fee.

"(Currently) 15 percent of students are uninsured," Neinstein said. "If they get hurt, they can't get help."

"A lot of campuses are moving toward mandatory insurance," he said.

(See Insurance, page 2)

## AIDS screenings test counselor's resolve

By Erik Sanjurjo  
Staff Writer

Anonymous HIV testing at the Student Health Center is available to anyone concerned about whether they have the virus, and anyone interested in learning more about the virus or safer sex.

The health center has students who volunteer as peer counselors, conducting closed sessions to inform test takers about HIV and safer sex issues.

One student learned of HIV counseling positions at the health center through an ad in the *Daily Trojan*, and has been a peer counselor for more than a year.

"There's no way to get people to get interested in (safe sex) unless they want to," said the counselor, who wished to have her name withheld.

Currently, efforts to educate the USC community are convincing only a percentage of students to use the health center's HIV testing services, she said.

"It's difficult to convince young people —

especially privileged people who are isolated to disease," said the counselor, a senior majoring in political science.

She has yet to give out a positive result in all this time, for which she said she is thankful. "I'm scared for their results too," she said.

When she learns of her first positive case, "I think it will be really hard...I'm almost positive I'll cry during the session," she said.

Her personal inspiration to become a peer counselor occurred when a friend of her family died of AIDS. She pointed to this event as the root of her desire to stop the disease from affecting anyone else.

She said her experiences as a counselor have been varied. In some sessions, people have promised to change their sexual practices completely. Others have threatened suicide if they received a positive result, she said.

"It's hard work. I come away with a sore throat every time. But it's really rewarding," she said.

The counselor said that most sexual

encounters experienced in college occur during the first two weeks of school. For students who live in university housing, condoms are provided and distributed by most Resident Advisors.

## Safer Sex

*Last in a series*

As an example, she described Welcome Week, when first-year women in the dorms often leave their doors open and the guys come preying, the counselor said.

"It's just one big date-fest...especially when older guys go back to the dorms," she said. "No one has anything to do the whole week, and everyone's looking for security and comfort."

"Freshman girls are so interested in belonging," she said.

(See AIDS, page 3)



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**Debate: Candidates call for community involvement**

(Continued from page 1)

dates) are very progressive and clearly interested in making this a university of the community."

All candidates agreed that Program Board is an important aspect of the university and would like to see an increase in funding and publicity.

"I think university funding is going to events that could have been better thought out," said Amy-Cecelia Sanders, a sophomore majoring in music and political science. "I want to get a student impact on who they want to see."

Candidates present at the debate vying for the four positions were: Sanders, Eric Flores, Peter Jasso Wedel, Erica Kreer, Becky Nelson, Nik Trendowski and Dan Bednarski. Candidates unable to attend the debate were freshman Carlos Ruano and sophomore Jim Balvich.

Sanders is running with the "Students Four Students" slate along with Kreer, Balvich and Nelson. She said she hopes to facilitate communication between students and the senate by reinstating office hours for senators in front of Tommy Trojan.

Candidates also agreed upon the importance of change regarding on-campus and off-campus safety.

"I think there should be increased lighting and an extension of (the blue-light emergency) phones out into the community," said Nelson, a junior majoring in communications and neuroscience. "I think that there should be safety on campus as well as in the surrounding community."

Nelson said that, in addition to security, she would like to beautify the area, and increase the visibility of the senate on campus.

Bednarski, a senior majoring in exercise science and psychology, feels that living off campus detaches students from the university.

He said he is focused on increasing student escort service, making sure university funds are better spent and ensuring campus safety.

Although most students agreed that lighting and escort services should be improved, Trendowski, a junior majoring in international relations and print journalism, argued that money was not the only solution.

"We need to work more on prevention. Students need to be aware of their surroundings," said Trendowski, whose campaign slogan is "An objective voice for change."

His goals are to lower the cost of living, improve community relations and help students find out where their money goes.

Kreer, a junior majoring in public relations and the study of women and men in society, hopes to serve as a liaison to work with administration "to get things done."

"I know what the university's capabilities are and I know its problems too," Kreer said.

"I want to publicize to students that we are here for them. I have an open mind and I want to see things changed."

Kreer also hopes to improve student safety and set up an information center to update students on senate activities.

When asked how he would discourage the negative image of the area surrounding the university, Flores, a public policy and management major, said he would encourage students to get out into the community.

"It has a lot of history and it's very beautiful," Flores said.

If elected, Flores plans to develop programs that would get students living off campus more involved.

Wedel, a sophomore majoring in cinema-television, hopes that his campus involvement will help him get elected.

"If you check my record out, I've always been there," Wedel said. "When there's something (that) needs to be said, I'm usually the one who will say it."

He said he plans to ensure student funds are properly distributed, increase the involvement of students living off campus and bring more activities to the immediate community.

"I would have like to have heard more differences in opinion," said Perez, a senior majoring in political science. "I think that some candidates were trying to appease the (panelists) with their answers."

"They should have been true to their feelings on the issues, but I thank those who were honest," she said. "Today's debate was far better than yesterday's."

Debates continue through next week; voting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 27 and Thursday, Feb. 28.

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Find out at a free, two-hour class given by the nation's test preparation leader, The Princeton Review. We'll discuss which GRE is best for you, along with how to improve your scores and what it takes to get into graduate school.

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## AIDS: Students come to center for

(Continued from page 1)

Welcome Week, the counselor noted, is right around the time that the RAs have the first floor meeting, during which they discuss the distribution of condoms.

But an education on safer sex isn't the only reason students drop by the health center to meet with a peer counselor on HIV testing, she said. Students with a variety of sexual behaviors and histories come in for information and a test.

Due to the non-threatening, non-judgmental atmosphere of the clinic, a large number of rape victims also come to be tested, she said.

Date rapes at USC, which can happen after women become intoxicated at parties, are often not reported, she said, and many victims do not even share their experiences with their current sexual partners.

Those who come in often don't want to call it rape, but they couldn't say "no," she said. If you can't say "no," that still can be rape, she said.

The counselor said the only clients she has trouble dealing with are those who don't want to talk about sex.

"People come in here with these blustery attitudes ... they're really just uncomfortable," she said.

She said the hardest question she has to ask is, "Why were you unsafe?"

Hostile clients often complain about the one-week waiting period to receive the results, she said.

"I've never been rude to a client...but it gets hard when they're really antagonistic," she said.

She said another reaction she says often sees is students downplaying of the risk of getting HIV. After receiving negative results, clients often say things like "I kinda expected it," she said.

The counselor warned that a negative result is not definite if the client has engaged in sexual intercourse within the six months prior to the test.

There is a chance that they have the virus, but their body has not yet produced the antibodies the test checks for.

Due to this risk, the counselor said she urges everyone who is sexually active to get tested, and hoped that everyone would take the test seriously.

"We hope it's a sobering experience," she said.

At present, the health center's HIV program has little funding, she said. It relies almost entirely on money paid by clients for appointments.

The testing was free for a while last year, when the clinic served as a host site to the AIDS quilt, she said. Now, the service costs \$20.

The Health Promotion and Prevention Department used to have an entire office to itself, she said, as well as a closed lobby which granted some privacy to clients.

Clients now have to ask for an AIDS test in plain view and within hearing distance of a hall filled with fellow students.

## CLASSIFIEDS • (213) 740-2707

USC's Torch and Tassel Chapter of Mortar Board celebrates  
Scholarship, Leadership, and Service

### Mortar Board Week

Appearing live today, from 12-1pm on  
the Leavey Library Terrace, is USC's  
favorite band, 'One-Legged Bob'!

Also, come see your friends and classmates be recognized  
today for their contributions to the USC Community. With  
their contributions, they have been chosen as true Scholars,  
Leaders, and Servants in the Mortar Board tradition.

Congratulations!

Eligible Juniors: Don't forget-information sheets are due in STU 201 by  
5pm. tomorrow!

Special Thanks to Leavey Library, Trojan Grounds Coffeehouse, and Pam and Marlene at  
USC Florist for making this event possible.

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# E-WEEK 1996

Tuesday:

### Young Engineers' Day

ESC and the American Society of Civil Engineers will be hosting a number of Junior High School students for an engineering competition from 10-12 in room TBA. Then Dr. Gene Bickers will be presenting a fun physics demonstration for their lunchtime entertainment in the E-Quad.

Expected attendance: 50

Contact person for the day: Reem Shamma

Thursday:

### Chariot Races

Derek and Brad present the death-defying monster chariot races! Watch the runners and pilots as they compete on the perilous circuit of South Trousdale. From 12-2. Sponsored in part by the Society of Automotive Engineers.



Expected attendance: 400

Contact person for the day: Derek Amanatullah

All events subject to change.

Wednesday:

### Carnival Day

ESC and the Society of Women Engineers are holding an action packed carnival in the E-Quad from 11-1. With live music by ALAJE, a velcro wall, a chili cook-off and ESC's president in the dunk tank, this is sure to be a day you won't want to miss.

Expected attendance: 500

Contact person for the day: Tamer Mahmoud

Friday:

### Career Day

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and ESC are hosting more than twenty engineering companies in the E-Quad from 10-2. Afterwards, come hear our surprise speaker at the wine and cheese reception in Topping North Lounge, from 3-5 PM.

Expected attendance: 350

Discretionary  
Board

Contact persons for the day: Mike Padilla / Tamer Mahmoud





Daily Trojan  
EditorialDeadline, process  
for financial aid  
needs revising

The day of reckoning is upon us! Financial Aid offices across the country have been touting today as the deadline for those seeking financial aid. Never mind the fact applications for government aid aren't actually due until March 1. You're supposed to have all your forms in the mail today to be assured of aid.

These extensive forms require nearly every bit of financial information from students and their parents; never mind that many students are 3000 miles away from them. The all too familiar phone conversation goes like this:

"Mom, I need to know what the family's total farm value is?"

"You want farm *what*?"

"It says here they need the amortized, gross annual value of a farm or business we own."

"Let me talk to the accountant... he'll know in April."

Compounding the inconvenience is the fact that a parent's signature is required on the applications also. Thus, this season keeps FedEx busy shuttling financial aid forms across the country.

Not only that, but the fact that taxes aren't due for another two months makes these forms even harder to fill out. Sure, you can do the forms with estimated amounts, but then you get estimated aid—and what if the numbers are drastically off?

Most employers wait until the end of January to send out W-2s; thus, students can't figure out their taxes until early or mid-February. Then they have to get their parents' information. With all these factors, a Feb. 15 deadline for financial aid is nearly impossible!

For those people trying to play the system and slip their packets in just before March 1, the consequences of a late sending can be devastating... especially to those relying on government money in order to attend USC. An advertisement in this paper warns of the consequences:

"Applicants who miss any deadlines will be considered for the federal Stafford Loan and Pell Grant programs only." This is a stern threat for those relying on any university or state monies.

Why does the government rely on such a crunch deadline? After all, everyone is given until April 15 to file the previous year's income taxes. What goes on during all those months between March and September? Heck, some people's financial aid packages aren't even completed by the time school starts. Why would it be so difficult for the government to push the deadline back to the tax deadline? It's not like financial aid forms burden the IRS.

Is there a reason these forms haven't been computerized yet? Americans have been able to fill out their taxes on computers for years; why can't college students use computers to fill out these lengthy forms? Today's college students are some of the most computer literate people in the United States, and most of us use them daily.

Today marks the end of the financial aid race—for some. For loads of college students and parents, it is only the beginning of a furious catch-up game.

## Like community, Local 11 isolated by USC

Lupe Chavez  
Sal Panuca

## Viewpoint Writers

In 1916, when President George Finley Bovard was presented with the idea of moving USC out of the city, he opted instead to root this university further into the heart of the City of Angels.

In 1996, what is the responsibility of a university in the heart of the urban jungle? The administration's answer lies in USC 2000, a publication for prospective students.

"No campus is an island. USC, as part of its very definition as a university, has developed an extraordinary commitment to the life of the city." However, subcontracting the jobs of Housing and Dining Service employees tells a different story.

Local 11 has recently sent out a video called "USC: Uneasy in South Central" to several high schools across the nation. The facts surrounding the union's negotiations with our university are necessary in order to understand their fight and their reasons for producing such a video.

Roughly 340 jobs are protected by the union. Salary for these jobs ranges from \$7.50 to \$8.50 an hour; in addition, there are insured benefits and job security to consider. The union refuses to sign contracts that give USC the right to subcontract union jobs to other corporations, which would do the same work but pay lower wages. Those (subcontracted) jobs come with no benefits or job security.

In the Summer of '94, USC brought in three subcontractors to do work over a period of four months. One hundred USC employees were laid off; one hundred new workers were hired at \$5.50 an hour. Most of the people brought in to replace loyal workers were impoverished Latinos. Although legal slavery ended a century ago, subcontracting allows USC to treat temporary employees like slaves and gives supervisors the opportunity to ignore seniority on the job. Subcontracted workers who are treated badly don't complain because their jobs are unprotected. They can be fired at the whim of their supervisor. Local 11 seeks to keep current contracts that allow employees to voice their concerns about fairness without risking much-needed paychecks.

According to USC 2000, "more than 60 percent of USC's students volunteer in programs that help local communities maintain the physical structure of their neighborhoods, and provide health, education and social services." Although USC contributes all of these beneficial services, unemployment destroys the infrastructure of the local area, and subcontracting—hiring and firing

at will with no job security—destabilizes the entire community.

With the university possessing the ability to subcontract, USC housing and dining employees will be hired, released and replaced with different workers as a vicious unemployment cycle repeats itself. The area USC 2000 aims to protect us from is not the real threat to USC. The proposed subcontracts are.

Three months ago, 50 members of the Board of Trustees, along with the president, received a copy of "Uneasy in South Central." Three months later, people are arguing that our image is marred when, after all, the board had sufficient time to comment or negotiate with Local 11 before

hand to this "school in the ghetto".

Whatever you may think, this video was not a dirty political move aimed at hurting USC's admissions. Our highest officials had the opportunity (three months!) to respond to the concerns that such a video raises.

By targeting high school students, prospective students from certain "minority" groups might decide to go to school elsewhere rather than tolerate such blatant abuse of the African-American and Latino communities. What USC officials fail to realize is that the community is as much a part of this university as the students. USC's gated access symbolizes its unwillingness to understand the economic problems of its local employees, adding to the instability of this region.

Students and faculty have shown support for the union's cause. One Trojan student gave a thumb's-up sign to a male union worker upon reading an article concerning the controversial video by Jessica Redford.

"I hope you know what might happen now," said the student.

The man replied, "I'm prepared. We have to carry on to get what's right. The university's policy and subcontracting proposition feels like they're choking us!"

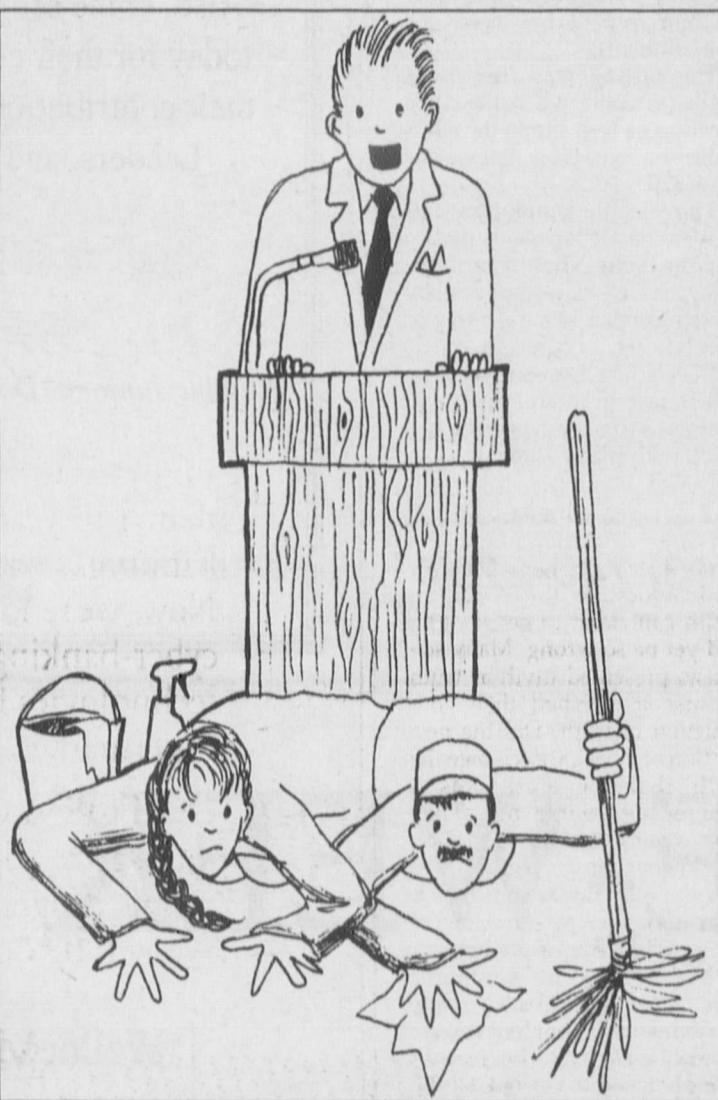
Instead of striving to rebuild the community, our university is trying to subcontract jobs, cracking the economic foundation of that very community. School officials, in attempt to save money, are creating an economy in South Central where blue collar workers have to compete for minimum wage jobs that someone once did for a slightly higher wage. By trading human dignity for money we continue to allow economic benefits to remain solely the right of the upper class. Does Los Angeles need another riot to realize there are still racial barriers and economic disparities in Los Angeles?

The Local 11 video, like the Los Angeles riots, serves as a reminder of how much further hardworking people have yet to struggle. Only action can shorten the length of this *lucha* (fight). As students, "we have to carry on to get what's right" by continuing the work of civil rights crusaders and Trojans before us. The "dream" of equal rights, wages and treatment under the American law and economic system is still a challenge on the verge of becoming a reality.

Seventy five years after Bovard's speech President Sample, in his 1991 Inaugural address, said, "From its very founding, this university was expected to be an integral and contributing part of the larger Southern California community, and it has lived up to that expectation throughout its 111-year history." Whatever ring of truth this might have, one thing is for sure—the beauty and economy of our surrounding community hasn't soared like our tuition has.

Sal Panuca is a junior majoring in East-Asian area studies.

Lupe Chavez is a freshman majoring in biomedical engineering.



Laura Branosky / Daily Trojan Editorial Cartoonist

large-scale distribution.

The video itself is a great way to ironically subvert USC's pride and joy—the world's greatest cinema school. The narration of this film is mainly a reflection of the many pamphlets and leaflets Local 11 has distributed around the USC campus. Other parts of this video used a clause in the university's Strategic Plan that singles out crime, poor primary and secondary education, and unemployment as threats detrimental to the continuing success of our university.

Representations of the South Central community did not come from Local 11. Rather, these representations came from the trustees' Strategic Plan. The video constantly referred back to this document as the basis for much of its content. In every shot, red call boxes with blue lights highlighted the scenery along with DPS officers cruising the perimeter. In some cases, the Los Angeles Police Department lent a helping

## Daily Trojan

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# Strive for the truth, not 'relative' truths

Jeremy Kocal

Viewpoint Writer

Across the bricks of Mudd Hall of Philosophy read these words: "The truth shall make you free." Most, if not all of us, desire to know the truth. Truth is the driving force behind the courthouses of America. A jury and judge are in positions of power for the sole purpose of determining the truth from lies. The witnesses swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Why would we have invented the lie-detector if truth were not an issue to us? Many make it their purpose to discover the truth in issues ranging from the assassination of JFK to the truth behind the meaning of life.

Have you ever considered what motivates the groups that set up their tables along Hahn Plaza? Some of these people are out there every single day, ready and willing to share their truths with any individual who will take a risk by asking a question. A few groups have the potential to be quite annoying, others go unnoticed and some claim they are helping to change, radically, the lives of USC students. A good portion of these groups claim they hold some of life's truth. When beliefs among different groups become conflicting or even contradictory, too often we resort to thinking that "this is the truth that works for them." Unfortunately, this type of thinking is misguided.

Perhaps you have heard the famous statements: "Everyone has their own truth," or "what is true for you is not true for me." If the speakers are really polite, they will say: "I'm glad that you've found something that works for you." These are phrases that are extremely com-

mon in a university setting, especially in one with such immense diversity. Behind these statements lies a belief that truth is dependent upon one's perspective, and that each person must discover what is true for themselves and themselves only. It ultimately leads to the belief that real truth does not even exist at all. In philosophical circles, this belief is called relativism.

Now here is what puzzles me. This "my truth, your truth" system of thinking which permeates society is felt most strongly when it concerns religion. "You have your beliefs and I have mine, and we are both right." But what happens when we move with this thought process beyond religion? Consider the science textbook. It is amazing how often something declared fact can change. In about 1491,

people believed, for example, that the earth was flat. This was not the truth in 1491, as they learned that in 1492. About 50 years ago, science textbooks told us that the universe was about 20 million years old. Between then and now, it has "aged" (in the public consciousness) about 200 million years.

It is a strange phenomenon: a book educating the American youth can claim to be so right, and yet be so wrong. Many scientists presented myth as truth because it matched their construction of truth. Did the perception of a flat earth change the truth that the earth was a sphere? Of course not. Then why would something so false be proclaimed as truth? It is, undoubtedly, pretty convenient. How life would be if truth were truly in "the eye of the beholder"? I could look at every test I take and say, "Well, sorry, Professor Smith, but this answer is true for me." This would mean I would never have to be wrong. If it is right for me, then I am right, even when I am wrong. Isn't that nifty?

But here lies the problem with such thinking. Just because I

(See Truth, page 6)

Many scientists stated a myth as truth because that is how they perceived the truth to be. Did the perception of a flat earth change the truth that the earth was a sphere? Of course not. Then why would something so false be proclaimed as truth?

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## **BA INTERVIEWS**

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## •Summer Internships

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## Truth: Beliefs should be formed upon what one knows to be true

(Continued from page 5)

think I am right in my own perspective does not erase the truth. Bill Clinton is president. You might not agree, but it is still the truth. Nothing can change that truth. When he leaves office, that will not change the truth. It will only change the way in which the truth is stated (Bill Clinton was president). So apply this to religious belief, and what happens? Some say there is no God, others that we are gods and some say there is only one God. Who is right?

Which one is the truth? If there is no God, then it's false to say: "You believe in God, so that is the truth that you have found." Conversely, if there is a God, then "my truth is that no God exists" is absurd.

People, what it all comes down to is that we need to be careful to distinguish between truth and belief. If you believe with all of your heart that this is UCLA, then I have got news for you: that is not the truth. It may be your belief, but, in that case, your belief is wrong. Oh yes, it may be "something that works for you" or "your truth," but let's face it: *your* truth is the furthest thing from *the* truth. For most of us, it is generally very difficult to determine what the truth

actually is, especially with so many religious cults coming and going. But why not approach belief like anything else? Do what is done in the courtroom. Examine the evidence. See what lines up and what doesn't. Remember that even science textbooks have been wrong, so make sure that you are willing to be, too.

We are too caught up in thinking our beliefs and truths are unrelated. But shouldn't our beliefs be formed by what is closest to the truth? Not my

truth or your truth, but *the* truth. It does exist. If you say it doesn't, then how can even that statement be true? Think it over the next time you see the tables lined up by Tommy Trojan. Which one of them, if any, actually holds the truth? Life is too short to settle for any-

thing short of the truth. If the

truth will set you free, then spend some time seeking what is really true. Examine the evidence for yourself. If nothing else, you may come to know what is false. And that, my friend, is the truth.

Jeremy Kocal is a sophomore majoring in music.



Ben Acker / Daily Trojan

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Encourage student organizations to increase recognition of members through a student-run honours convocation.

Further integrate international students with domestic students.

Empower students, faculty and staff to collaboratively attain the goals proposed in this Challenge.

*Many thanks to all the staff and faculty members who have met this Challenge with such tremendous support. Thanks also to the Academic Honors Assembly for their support of Mortar Board Week.*

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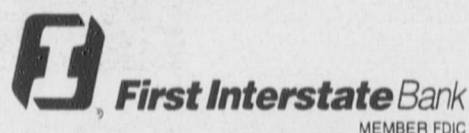
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## The Golden Shovel

by Benjamin Acker

*Friendship not the most easy thing to figure out; read on*

What is a friend?

Indeed, this is a question that seems fairly easy, one that warrants a terse, simple response. One might answer that a friend is a person that is there for you when you need him or her. Maybe that person shares common interests with you, like gardening, or "Star Wars," or aardvark appreciation. It is even conceivable that a friend is someone who mirrors our finer qualities, radiating an ambiance of companionship whenever he or she accompanies us on our adventures through life.

But is a friend that easy to understand? Is friendship just an excuse to surround oneself with people that think as we do, that offer prayers to the same God, that fill our non-romantic occasions with the joy of another pretty face? Or is it, just maybe, a little deeper than those wonderful tangibles?

Yesterday was Valentine's Day, a day when those amigos are often overlooked for the sake of one's more intimate endeavors. Some of us spent our time during the past few days looking for the most perfect, albeit inexpensive, flowers to grant some lucky man or maiden with a token of our affection. Others perhaps journeyed up and down the aisles of stationery stores, searching frantically for the perfect card that said just the right thing. And a few of us went out of our way to demonstrate our inexorable link to the affections of another, thus showing through our thoughts, words and deeds how selflessly we could love.

But, my friends, I implore you not to forget the people that got you there. You are lovable and capable not because you are naturally romantic, but because your friends found value in you. They accepted you for who you are, who you are not and who you have always aspired to be. Those buddies you played kickball with in third grade, those guys and gals that cheered on your high school football team at your side, those folks that lived on your floor in Birnkrant that you did the late night radio show with are the people that gave you the self-confidence and the motivation to love. Of course, the true test of any relationship, platonic or otherwise, is to find the best of both worlds embodied in one person. This wonderful person is your soul-mate...hang on to 'em for dear life, and pray that they see those endearing qualities in you.

I have friends, like Big Al, Vic and James, that I see every day of the week. I have friends, like Huck, Child-of-Grace, Gregory and T.J., that I see on occasion—though those occasions are always surrounded by a joy unparalleled in any of my life experiences. I have friends, like Tina my e-mail bud from North Dakota State University, that I have never seen in person. But all of them have helped instruct me in a lesson that I will always cherish and hold dear. They have taught me the true power and meaning of love, and that love is a gift, freely given, for the desire of another's good.

Love can be the most powerful bond in heaven or on earth. And love can be just another four-letter word. Friendship is another word for love. Take the time to ensure that everyone understands what you mean by it.

# Diversions

## Mouse On Mars utilizes many sounds

**Mouse on Mars**  
*Vulvaland*  
(Too Pure/American)

**Mouse on Mars**  
*laora Tahiti*  
(Too Pure/American)

Mouse on Mars' debut *Vulvaland* garnered its share of raves in the British music press in 1994, appearing on numerous top-ten lists. But when it was finally released domestically last year, it seemed like a good but not ear-opening ambient album with the first few listens. Didn't the Orb do this same thing—undulating dub-scapes, satellite-transmission voices, elevator bells—a few years ago?

### Sound Check

The reality is that the German duo doesn't come into its own until about halfway through the album, notably with the foreign-language vocals of "Chagrin" and the busy percussion and loops of "Die Seele Von Brian Wilson," a good enough approximation of an unpredictable elevator ride. "Katang" is more unsettling than soothing with its human-pulse throb, while the unlisted CD bonus tracks are promising drone 'n' beat experiments. **B**

An excellent follow-up, *laora Tahiti* finds Mouse on Mars



Andi Toma and Jan St. Werner of Mouse On Mars revels in their loose direction on their latest.

knee-deep in exotica and loving it. "Stereomission" takes classic bachelor-pad hi-fi melodies (cheesy takes on world music tailor-made for seduction) and lays Asian speech over them for perhaps the swinging-est commercial jingle ever. "Saturday Night Worldcup Fieber" ups the tempo, maintaining the vintage feel with analog synths, and "Schunkel" goes for a waltz on

the moon with simulated strings and the "woo-eee-ooo" of the Theremin. The up/down disorientation of the debut's "Brian Wilson" returns on the delicate "Gocard."

Confident and often beautiful, the music on *laora Tahiti* also has an appealing whimsical quality that results more from thoughtful strategy than a few well-placed surprises—check the

bouncing spring sounds amidst the ethereal clatter of "Bib" or the insect-chirp shimmer that comprises the brief "Preprise." Here's a duo that seems pleased with its loose direction and—more uniquely—is capable enough to reproduce that giddy pleasure in listeners. **A-**

—Kyle Ylinen/Contributing Writer

## Little heard art music makes good

**Bang on a Can**  
*Industry*  
(Sony Classical)

In the art music world, new music doesn't get as much attention as it should. There's so much focus on long-dead composers that new composers are often ignored. Bang on a Can is a festival that was founded in 1987 to bring new music to the public. Eventually, the Bang on a Can All-Stars were formed for the release of *Industry* and in order to tour.

### Sound Bites

The five compositions on this album vary greatly in style—from minimalism to serialism and beyond. Julia Wolfe's "Lick" borders on being a rock jam—especially since an electric guitar is one of the instruments this ensemble uses. Louis Andriessen's "Hout" is minimalism in a cannon form so that it doesn't seem minimalist at all. Andriessen's "Hoketus" is more traditional minimalism, but with two divided groups that answer each other—never playing at the same time. David Lang's "The Anvil Chorus" is an odd narrative-driven percussion piece complete with brake drums, steel pipes and plenty of junk instruments. The title piece, composed by Michael

(See Bites, page 10)

## Avner the Eccentric is simply electric

By Deanna Ableser  
Staff Writer

Avner is brilliant. Simple enough.

Avner the Eccentric is a clown, a vaudevillian, an actor, a singer, a kazoo-man, a popcorn eater and an overall genius. The premise behind his solo performance is that he is a stagehand, waiting for the show to start. In the meantime, he realizes that he has an audience. Therein begins the delicious madness.

Avner definitely appeals to the child in all of us. Sitting quietly on stage eating popcorn, which he has pulled out of his pants, he slowly realizes that no one in the audience has any popcorn. He saunters off the stage and preciously begins to offer single pieces of popcorn to children in the audience. When he slowly looks up, he realizes that everyone is raising their hands for popcorn. He panics, and hysterically begins to distribute the kernels, at random, to different people. Finally, exhausted, he throws the whole box into the audience.

This is indicative of the entire show. At the show I attended, some patrons arrived about ten minutes late; Avner sweetly reminded them of the time, then re-enacted the first minutes of the show faster than an auctioneer, bringing about hysterical laughter. As he wound down, more late arrivals sheepishly sat down. Avner merely sighed.

Avner uses audience participation to great effect. One audience member that night snapped a flash picture (illegally, of course.) The zany clown jumped off the stage, grabbed the offending camera, and proceeded to shoot out the roll, filling it with, um, great memories: the owner's expression, other



Avner the Eccentric in his own spectacular environment.

audience reactions, Avner's crotch. In his next sketch, the eccentric Eccentric solicited the help of a middle-aged woman, throwing objects just behind her sightline and announcing proudly to the audience—through a kazoo, naturally—"She didn't see it!"

Avner is also technically fantastic ... from juggling baseball bats to tightrope walking to balancing ladders on his chin, this guy can do anything with his body.

The finale is tremendous. Avner sits quietly on stage, a rarity to be sure, and prepares to eat his hotel meal. The yummy bunch of napkins on his plate—yes, folks, that's the meal—get consumed in various humorous ways, culminating in a long napkin rope, coming from I-don't-want-to-know-where, pulled from his mouth.

Technically, Avner's show is perfect. Jeff Norberry's lighting design and stage management is just flawless, and Julie Goell is a superb vocal coach.

Unfortunately, Avner's run at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts is over. Talent, humor, sensuality and genius

## Theater Review

Avner, the Eccentric

For information on when Avner will be performing next contact Lori Yonan at (310) 916-8510

are not to be missed in anyone; when they're combined in one man, the result is phenomenal.

Avner the Eccentric ran February 4th at 2p.m. and 7p.m. at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. His booking agent is ICM Artists, Ltd., and his personal manager is part of the David Belenzon Management team. Though contact numbers were unavailable at the time, you can contact press agent Lori Yonan at (310) 916-8510.



## Bites: NOFX gets somber, those sneaky S.F. Seals

(Continued from page 9)

Gordon, may be the most impressive piece on the album. This sonically-deranged piece for solo cello/Ibanez "Tube Screamer" is striking in the able hands of Maya Beiser.

Industry is recommended to all with an interest in the living and to those who wish to find a more accessible way into appreciating experimental music. A

—Adam Stackhouse/Music Editor

**NOFX**  
*Heavy Petting Zoo*  
(Epitaph)

With their eighth release, *Heavy Petting Zoo*, NOFX returns to a music world that is more and more willing to consume the punk commodity. The band is well aware of this. Indeed, the album's liner notes includes a message to MTV and major labels that orders them to "quit bugging us" and to commercial radio stations commanding them to "quit playing us." They add, "We've been doing fine all these years without you, so leave us . . . alone!" With this attitude, NOFX dives into its most serious and accomplished material to date.

NOFX's guitar sound walks the thin line between metal and punk—an act that most punk

bands would avoid like the plague. They fearlessly expand on this sound with such songs as "Freedom Like a Shopping Cart," "Hot Dog in a Hallway," and "Release the Hostages." The great thing about NOFX is that their metal meanderings don't turn the songs into meaningless guitar drivel. They are to the point—as punk songs should be—but with a lot of depth and flair.

Not since 1992's *The Longest Line* EP has NOFX considered such sober topics. The humor that saturated the lyrics of most previous NOFX releases is almost completely absent in this one. The themes of many of the songs are based on social commentary. The two most thought-provoking songs are "Love Story" and "The Black and White." On "Love Story," over a muted guitar and sparse drums, NOFX sings about a the fate of a suburbia-stranded housewife. *Children play in the yard / Mother stares at a wall / Father says he's gonna be back late / So don't wait up / About a quarter to three / Father stares at a wall / Stained thicker than water / Who's gonna clean it up?*

In the past, NOFX albums have been notoriously uneven. 1994's solid *Punk in Drublic* was an exception, and so is *Heavy*

*Petting Zoo*. Hopefully, these albums will become the rule rather than the exception, for this challenging band. A  
—Ryan Reed / Assistant  
Diversions Editor

**S.F. Seals**  
*Truth Walks in Sleepy Shadows*  
(Matador)

Most of the praise that solo artist and S.F. Seals leader Barbara Manning receives from the U.S. rock press is deserved. The latest S.F. Seals release, *Truth Walks in Sleepy Shadows*, is full of Manning's solidly constructed, sometimes country-inflected post-punk gems, all garnished with her clear, sweet voice and plenty of insightful break-up lyrics. It really seems like she has everything going for her.

But, it all seems too perfect. Sometimes you wish for the crystal-clear production to fall in the mud a little. Maybe if the album felt like more of a band effort instead of Manning leading the show, then the album would feel like it had the depth that it possesses. It doesn't help to know that Manning has a history of not being able to keep a band together. Maybe that's because Manning seems so bent



That deceived feeling keeps creeping up on you on S.F. Seal's newest.

on perfection. Out of the 11 songs on this disc, three are covers, seven are written by Manning and only one is written by the band. It wouldn't be so bad if the members had their own, distinctive style, but they seem more like session musicians. If this album was credited as a solo album, most of its prob-

lems wouldn't seem half as bad. Also, Manning wouldn't have to resort to lame tactics like calling the band to rock out on "Pulp" with an S.F. Seals!, a la your average high-school pep band, to give the illusion that this is a real band.

Regardless of who the album is credited to, it is full of great songs. The vibrato guitar and the slow, plodding rhythm and lyrical delivery of "Ladies of the Sea" make it stand out immediately. The accordion, calliope, timpani and extra-sweet vocals help to capture the perfect children's song feel for "Kid's Pirate Ship." And, fine lyrics like *When you walked out on me / Part of me wanted to / Walk out on me with you / I'd rather be / The drum in between your knees / So you could hit on me / from "Pulp,"* run throughout the album. Except for the inappropriate and out of context cover of Faust's "Flashback Caruso" from *The Faust Tapes*, the album is excellent. Still, that feeling that someone's deceiving you creeps up on you occasionally. B

—Adam Stackhouse/Music Editor

**Flowchart**  
*Multi-Personality Tabletop Vacation*  
(Carrot Top)

It's one thing for a band to be influenced by another band, but it's another thing entirely to attempt to flat out plagiarize. New Jersey's shameless Flowchart does its best to duplicate the Stereolab sound on *Multi-Personality Tabletop Vacation*, but the result is transparently feeble-minded.

Stereolab itself isn't the most original band. Listen to Krautrock bands like Neu! or early Kraftwerk and you'll find some of the grooves to be identical. Still, Stereolab is more complex than just those grooves. It also brilliantly borrows from French '60s pop, space-age pop and a number of experimental bands and mixes these influences with a liberal dose of Marxism and the band's own peculiar imagination.

Flowchart is more like a parrot—it can mimic, but it can't understand. Flowchart's argument would probably be something like: if you enjoy the music, who cares if it's not original. Considering how prolific Stereolab is, there really isn't any room for superficial-imitators. F

—Adam Stackhouse/Music Editor

**Tracy Chapman**  
*New Beginning*  
(Elektra)

With the release of her fourth album, *New Beginning*, three-time Grammy winner Tracy Chapman has made a giant leap back onto the music scene.

(See Bites, page 14)

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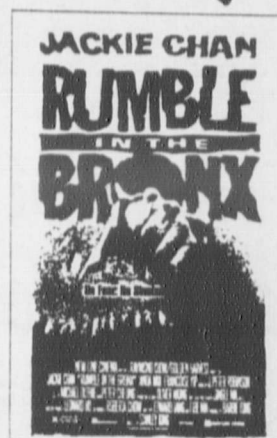
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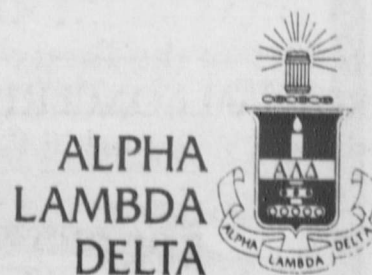
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## Base of 'City Hall' firm, still can't support itself

By Tim Grierson  
Staff Writer

Certain movies can only be classified as "solid" entertainment. They're effective, they hold your interest, but they don't ever dig deep enough to really leave you with anything lasting.

Watching "City Hall," you admire the craftsmanship, the rich pool of acting talent and the sturdy script. But, as involving as it can be, Harold Becker's film never fully delivers on its potential.

John Cusack's Kevin Calhoun is straight from Louisiana (accent wavering from scene to scene) and has moved to the big city, serving as second-in-command to Mayor John Pappas (Al Pacino). Calhoun gets off on the rigors of New York politics—the inside deals and the battles for positions of power. In Pappas, he sees one of the last decent people still trying to make a difference despite the bureaucratic obstacles and corruption around him.

Calhoun sets the movie's tone early with his opening voice-over, accompanied by impressive shots of the Big Apple in all its urban glory. Becker has set up Calhoun as the film's young, naive idealist talking in romanticized tones about luck and opportunity in our sprawling metropolises. From the outset, we're waiting for something bad, something eye-opening, to happen to this kid.

The anticipation ends quickly when a black youth is gunned down during a blown rendezvous between a drug dealer and an undercover cop. Watching out for

the mayor's best interests, Calhoun takes on the case to determine what an officer — working without orders — was doing in the Bronx meeting with a known mobster.

Becker ("Sea of Love" and "Malice") along with his four, count 'em, four writers have constructed a "Chinatown"-esque story as Calhoun keeps going deeper into the city's moral ambiguities as he learns that the shooting involves everyone from a seemingly upstanding judge (Martin Landau) to high-ranking leaders (Danny Aiello) with strong personal ties to the mayor.

Though the mystery starts off with intrigue, it soon becomes pretty apparent where the film is heading. Instead, the strengths of "City Hall" come from its stand-out cast, which adds tension to a familiar story. Landau, Aiello and Tony Franciosa (as a mob boss) all give strong performances, embodying people sucked into the city's corrupt vortex who have, in their own ways, added to the urban moral decay. Cusack and Pacino's scenes together are some of the film's best as they nicely reveal the dynamics of a friendship which positions the older man as both Cusack's boss and caring father figure, afraid that the young upstart will become frustrated and burn himself out like so many before him.

As for Pacino's performance, he's good as usual, but it's becoming increasingly more difficult to tolerate his tendencies to go for the overkill moment. Though suitably restrained for most of the film, he has a few instances of

what can best be described as "Pacinoese," where his insistence on screaming every word and overacting to the hilt stop the movie with a thud. Yeah, he's *Al Pacino*, but doesn't anybody have the guts to tell him when to calm down?

The filmmakers have envisioned "City Hall" almost exclusively as a men's club; the exception is one pesky lawyer (Bridget Fonda) who grudgingly works with Calhoun to unravel the case. Becker's got more problems directing Fonda than any of his other characters here, and it probably doesn't help that two of his four writers (Nicholas Pileggi and Paul Schrader) are most known for their work with Martin Scorsese, never our patron saint of Strong Female Characters. Fonda's talented, but "City Hall" isn't her finest hour.

The movie's sense of atmosphere and setting alone make it worthwhile, although a more thorough examination of the inner workings of city government wouldn't have hurt. No Hollywood film has ever been able to unearth the delicate pecking order of urban politics as intelligently as Tom Wolfe did in his fine novel "The Bonfire of the Vanities," even though "City



John Cusack as Kevin Calhoun and Al Pacino as Mayor John Pappas in the long-delayed drama "City Hall."

Hall" probably gets as close as any other movie has.

Becker's film knows the rhythms of conversation and the back-and-forth of negotiations, but it fails to really get us addicted to this world of bureaucrats and politicians. There's little question that Calhoun's hooked on this stuff, but we don't share his mad desire to be in the center of the action. In turn, there's no sense of the inherent corruption that plays a part in that addiction. Once again, point fingers at the script, which combined former New York City Deputy Mayor Ken Lipper's original draft with

tinkering by three Hollywood rewriters who seem to have beefed up the tough-guy angle as well as provided a more conventional detective story. The added cooks may have improved the film's market value, but they have also diluted the overall coherence in theme and character.

With another lackluster crop of new year movies upon us, "City Hall" deserves notice for at least striving for more than infantile laughs or overheated drama. But the film misses its chances to be something greater and remains a diverting, but not wholly successful, endeavor.

## Movie Review

"City Hall"

Al Pacino, John Cusack

Columbia Pictures

Opens Friday, Nationwide

Grade: B

## Academy nomination process trapped in never-ending politics that often ignore quality

By Constantine Nasr  
Staff Writer

I would like to begin this rather personal piece of criticism with an apology to those readers who may have a feeling of satisfaction and/or pleasure when thinking about the unspoken rules that bind the Hollywood industry and its "prestigious" Academy Awards. It's not an apology on my behalf for this article, but rather a sympathetic emotion towards those who have no or little criticism for this group of people, or better yet, no critical judgment when it comes to understanding what separates their self-praise from deserved praise.

## Oscar Commentary

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is probably one of the most distastefully influential bodies that have disastrous effects on our culture as a whole. They are oftentimes the single source that average moviegoers look to every year for an opinion of what is supposedly the best there is. Many people that I know actually rely on the thumbs up/thumbs down policy of Siskel and Ebert, or the raving praise of Joel Siegal.

Now, even putting aside the fact that many opinions are ill-informed, I am not opposed to those critics who try to inform their audiences with good intent. However, it is the plain and simple truth that those revered statues which hold the utmost merit in the eyes of the film fans lend a considerable weight to a film's success, even if that film is unworthy of the honor. A movie that is paraded by a company as a four-star film and one that is definitely worthy of one of those statues does have a better chance of being remembered than a film that does not benefit from such trumpeting. For the most part, this organization has done a fair job over the years, in terms of selection (although fair is in no way excellent). But it's all a matter of taste, right?

Yes and no. The devices of such a system are as askew today as our current political agenda. In some ways, it is politics that plays a part in making this system so dysfunctional. Much like our own



"Apollo 13" is nominated for Best Picture, but Director Howard wasn't.

Congress, we have a collective group of people who have no idea of the body of work they plan on analyzing and commenting. Because of certain unspoken rules and regulations, certain works have no right to be praised by this sect, even though the rest of the world will give their undoubted approval.

It is not my goal to start saying what film deserved what honor; even if I wanted to (and I definitely do), it is not my place because I am still too uninformed to make such decisions. I say that even with the satisfaction that I have probably seen more films than those who voted in the Academy itself. Curiously enough, one has to wonder how these films and awards are selected. It has to be a complex process, one would assume.

I only recently found out that the Academy members, no matter who they are and what they do, have the right to cast their final voting ballots for each and every category. This means that someone who has no clue of what cinematography is can cast a ballot for, say, "Batman Forever" because it had some "cool visual style." Well, I hope I'm not the first to say that "Batman Forever's" cool visual style was the most horrendous, overblown, disgusting and overly fashionable style I had seen all year long. (Even putting aside my belief that this film was a blasphemy to begin with.) But

we'll return to that later.

Many people are appalled by this year's selections. Are we surprised? Yes, in fact, I am. I mean, while "Apollo 13" was nominated for best picture, the obvious Academy move was to give Ron Howard his nod; somehow, this didn't happen. Instead, "The Postman" garnishes its handful of awards — deserving yes, but not that deserving. The reasons for the slights and the unnatural choices stem from the Academy's consistent duty to maintain a mainstream attitude, or at least one that seems that way. If not mainstream, I would assume that those who vote are the most unaware bunch of moviegoers of them all; the irony is that these are the movie makers themselves!

While a film like "Leaving Las Vegas" can capture Best Actor, Actress, Director, Screenplay, among others, it is somehow unworthy of a Best Picture nomination. Why, one would wonder? I mean, what was wrong with this film if all its elements seemed worthy enough to fill the other categories. The simple answer is because the Academy is too fearful to give praise to a film that is so dark and brooding.

This moves into another level. Of all the critically acclaimed films of the year, one film of the entire lot was snubbed



Mike Figgis got a Best Director nod for his film "Leaving Las Vegas" while the film itself was overlooked in the Best Picture category, leaving many to wonder why.

100%. I am making it my personal crusade to persecute the misguided voters of the Academy for not giving Michael Mann's "Heat" a single ounce of credit. Not a single nomination. And, while "Batman Forever" is blessed with its cinematography nomination, that of "Heat," whose cinematography was some of the most incredible in years, is completely forgotten. This I call unforgivable, due to the fact that it is "Batman Forever" that takes up such precious space in this deserved category. The Academy seems to have no clue as to what real cinematography is; to them it is sweeping landscapes, luminous mountains and beautiful skies all wrapped in a single shot.

Stepping aside, I try and rationalize all this fluff, and say to myself how unimportant this entire event is. I am amazed at my own ridiculous concern. Having written this article, I feel ashamed that

this has caused me and my friends such bitter anger. Mainly it was because this year (until the late fall) had been almost fully disappointing. Fortunately, when I look at these awards from a different angle, I am relieved.

The entire system is flawed because of the filmmakers' self-righteous attempt to congratulate themselves on a job well done. They are the ones patting themselves on the back, giving themselves tiny fake gold statues and wasting their time watching really horrible dance routines alongside a bad script for an entire night. But they've conned us into believing it's something more. It's as though we the fans have some say, some input we never knew we had, or something at stake when we see this gala event. Unfortunately, we are fooling ourselves silly.

(See Oscar, page 14)

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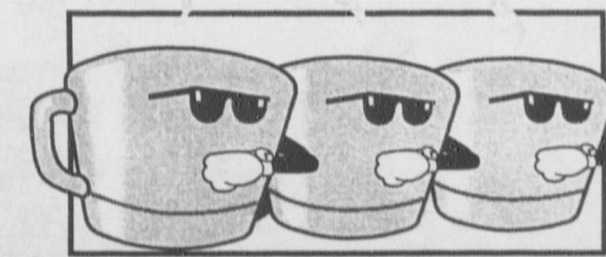
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## Bites: Tracy Chapman explores relationships

(Continued from page 10)

Chapman, best known for her 1988 hit "Fast Car," had sunk to the brink of public oblivion after the financial and critical failure of her last effort, *Matters of the Heart*. A low point was reached in her career last year, when she was featured on VH-1's "One Hit Wonders" special.

Chapman proved her critics wrong by returning with *New Beginning*, a work that features several musical styles she hadn't tried in the past and a fresh upbeat outlook on life. She describes the themes of the new album as "change, growth and renewal."

The 32-year-old singer-songwriter has moved away artistically from her past work, which prominently featured acoustic guitar. Chapman now has an entire band beside her, including bass, drums and electric guitar, that plays a big role in all of the new pieces.

On the title track of *New Beginning*, Chapman remains as critical of modern life as ever, announcing, "the whole world's broke and it ain't worth fixing." She suggests idealistically that

the solution is to "start all over and make a new beginning."

The single "Give Me One Reason," a story about an unappreciative younger lover, is sheer blues.

*This youthful heart can love you and give you what you need / But I'm too old to go chasing you around, wasting my precious energy.*

Chapman, better known for laments about abusive relationships than for sensual odes, simply struts with this song.

Another highlight is "Smoke and Ashes," a tale of unrequited love that has Chapman's husky, melancholic voice accompanying a piano.

*I've got a red hot heart / And your heart's as blue as the blood in your veins.*

The rest of the album, mostly ballads, is fairly good. These pieces focus on relationships, marking Chapman's transformation as an artist away from the satirical socio-political themes of the past and towards tales closer to the heart. B+

—Erik Sanjurjo / Staff Writer



Tracy Chapman proves critics (and the public) wrong with her latest effort, "New Beginning."

Ké  
*I Am [ ]*  
(RCA)

What will first grab you about *I Am [ ]* isn't Ké's atmospheric and ambitious musical set pieces, but his arresting, almost

feminine voice. If you didn't know better, you'd swear Annie Lennox had released an new LP without telling anyone.

Over eleven inventive, lush tracks, Ké not only constructs songs about loneliness, he fills out his words with rich shadings of violin and evocative keyboards. His airy voice is reminiscent of Lennox's frosty delivery; so is his use of despondent strings and pianos. With both artists, the lyrics only tell half of the protagonists' restlessness. The detail is in the presentation, and Ké proves himself quite talented at incorporating a multi-instrumental attack.

To be honest, it's his immaculate overproduction that ultimately diminishes *I Am [ ]*. With five different producers and executive producers combined,

the album seems almost too pristine. The title track's sorrow gets buried under the prettiness of the arrangement. Perhaps, next time Ké will allow more of his songs to cut closer to the bone. In the lesser moments on the disc, there's a lack of real human feeling—an inadequacy that hurts any record dependent on evoking loss and suffering. Here, his breathy vocals don't help much, as they only contribute to the absence of heat beneath the glossy, glittering surface.

Musically a stunner, *I Am [ ]* ends up feeling too one-note. It's certainly a promising beginning, especially if Ké learns a little moderation to go along with his aural skills. B+

—Tim Grierson / Staff Writer

## Oscar: Scorsese, Stone both denied nominations

(Continued from page 13)

How else could a movie like "Driving Miss Daisy" win Best Picture, Kevin Costner for Best Director (for "Dances With Wolves"), or Tom Hanks for Best Actor (for "Philadelphia"), if not for the flawed system that allows colleagues to cheer on familiar and likable faces. How else did Tim Robbins (nominated for Best Director for "Dead Man Walking") get that nomination and Oliver Stone did not? How is it that in all his work, at no time has Martin Scorsese ever had the glory of a win?

The Academy votes for itself to look good and sophisticated, well-rounded and fair. To be nominated means a matter of acceptance among peers. And once again, half these folks never have the chance to even view films in the theaters. And, because the industry likes a film, they push it and push it, until it wins. That's what happened to "Braveheart," and the same for films like "Philadelphia" and "Beauty and the Beast." When the industry likes one of their home-grown products, they

won't stop until it shines in the Academy's eyes. Even so, when they decide not to honor a Hollywood film made in an un-Hollywood-like manner ("Leaving Las Vegas"), the result is to praise the independent films like "The Postman." So, though Hollywood will praise itself for its own self-made successes, something that stands apart (made in Hollywood yet unlike Hollywood) will get shunned out so unfairly. This leaves room for the sympathy vote, five nominations for "The Postman."

It would be foolish to continue this argument for much longer. It will have no effect whatsoever, mostly because we viewers have no say as to what the Academy does. It would be nice to think that maybe someone in the Academy would see this and pass along the views here (which I understand is a consensus at this school). Luckily, the Academy isn't there to affect our opinions, only to make their own feel better; and we can be sure it's not going to change.

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# Less financial aid available to those who miss deadline

By Antonia Barber  
Staff Writer

Today is the suggested cutoff date for mailing 1996-97 financial aid applications, in order to that they be received by the March 1 deadline. Students who miss the deadline may lose their eligibility for university grants or loans, but may still be considered for other federal programs.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid determines students' eligibility for financial aid programs including: university grants or loans, the federal Perkins Loan, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants or work-study for the 1996-97 school year. The FAFSA or renewal FAFSA is due March 1, in addition to the College Scholarship Service Profile.

According to the instructions published by the financial aid office, late applicants will be considered for the Stafford Loan and Pell Grant programs only. But every effort will be made to find funding for students who miss the March deadline, said Cathy Thomas, assistant dean of admissions and financial aid.

"We are not doing this to punish students, but we want students to get the full amount coming to them," she said.

The later an application is sent, the less money will be available. A student may qualify to receive federal or university grants, but if these institutions have distributed funds already, the student might be offered a loan instead, Thomas said.

If a student misses the federal deadline, he or she may file an appeal and still receive an aid package, but will receive much less than if the form was filed on time.

"If we have funds available, we make them available for those who come," Thomas said. "Although the university is very generous in the amount of grants and loans it gives out, there is never enough."

The two-week time frame before the March deadline is to prevent students from losing out on the funding they qualify for. The large gap in deadlines is to allow for any number of delays, Thomas said.

"We want to pressure students to (mail) it by the deadline because that gives them flexibil-

ity. In past years, there have been weather problems in parts of the country that cause delays," he said.

Joung Lee, a senior majoring in business, mailed his forms last year on Feb. 25. He said he felt this was more than enough time, but the federal processing center received his envelope a week late due to a wrong ZIP code. He was forced to take a loan from Citibank to compensate for not receiving a university grant.

"I can't believe the difference mailing that envelope just a few days earlier could have made," he said.

Other delays in processing student forms are due to incomplete or inaccurate information, said Ryan Pike, a financial aid specialist at the Federal Student Aid Processing Center.

"When students don't fill out the forms completely and correctly it can cause quite a delay in their ability to receive financial aid at the school of their choice," he said. "This is one of the most probable reasons for delays in a student's application."

Thomas suggests that students keep copies of forms, not leave blank spaces, and take the forms to the financial aid office in person instead of using campus mail or giving them to a friend to deliver.

Many students turn in applications late because family or individual federal income tax returns are not complete, Thomas said.

However, both the FAFSA and CSS Profile can both be completed by estimating the figures; signed copies of the tax returns must be received by May 1. It is recommended that they be submitted by April 15, the filing deadline for taxes.

Students with special circumstances, such as a family death, can request to apply late, but they also face the problem of insufficient funds.

The March 1 deadline was determined by the university to correspond with the Cal Grant deadline, which many USC students qualify for, Thomas said.

Students whose family or personal financial situation has not changed significantly can expect the same financial aid package, he said.

## Insurance: Plan already in effect for some students

(Continued from page 1)

The mandated insurance for international students and Health Science Campus students covers up to \$250,000.

For international students, the insurance covers a \$15,000 repatriation. That pays for students to return to the United States for medical treatment or, in the event that war breaks out in their country of origin, to pay for necessary medical services.

Currently, health insurance costs students \$332 for the spring and summer.

In addition, all students are required to pay the \$137 health center fee.

When the mandatory insur-

ance takes effect, the Student Health Center fee will not be waived and will continue to be charged to students' accounts.

According to Anita Hodges, insurance coordinator at the health center, the insurance does have some rewards other than standard coverage.

If covered students spend more than \$100 on certain specific services, like office visits and medication, they will be entitled to some kind of reimbursement at the end of the semester, she said.

"It forces students to take care and responsibility for themselves," said freshman Araceli Gonzalez.

## Hand-drawn



Laura Lanchester / Daily Trojan

An artist renders a chalk drawing in celebration of Condom Awareness Day Wednesday.

## Adam Sandler



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## Protest: Arguments surface at plaza

(Continued from page 1)

out fliers and spoke to people passing by.

Heated arguments took place between marchers and some members of Christian groups who oppose homosexuality and promiscuity among unmarried couples.

"I believe that domestic couples having the same rights as married couples is a violation of the institution of marriage, which is a covenant between a man and a woman united through God," said Gloria Reyes, a graduate student in gerontology and member of the Trojan Victory Fellowship.

While the campaign for partnership rights for students at USC is new, the Association for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual University Employees is continuing a campaign that began in late 1994 to obtain benefits

specifically for homosexual and bisexual couples.

In November of 1994, the administration rejected the association's proposal for partnership benefits.

This week, AGLBUE stepped up its campaign to have USC adopt the proposal through a series of advertisements. One lists Harvard, Yale and Stanford as universities that have offered domestic partner health benefits to their gay and lesbian employees.

"The inequity that we're addressing is that we can't get married. USC is behind many other campuses when it comes to partnership benefits," said David Blackmar, co-chair of the association. "It's just downright unfair."

Blackmar said that USC's lack of domestic partnership benefits has affected its recruitment of

faculty and staff.

"There are examples from schools and departments of people who have turned down positions because of it," he said. "Others have asked for it and continue to negotiate."

But some of the protesters said they were not specifically pursuing rights for homosexual or bisexual student couples.

Dallas Dishman, chair of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Assembly, said the protest was also speaking on behalf of heterosexual domestic couples.

"This protest is not about special rights for gays and lesbians and bisexuals. This is about everyone having the same rights, the same treatment and equality," he said.

Jean Cary, a 47-year-old graduate student, participated by asking people to sign a petition to be sent to President Steven B.



Laura Lanchester / Daily Trojan

Protesters Wednesday demanded equal rights for bisexual, homosexual and heterosexual partnerships.

Sample.

"I support a domestic partners equal rights policy, gay or straight," she said.

Cary lives in university housing with her brother Joseph. She has a 9-year-old son, Jeffrey.

"My brother is my son's guardian. If anything should happen to me, he is Jeffrey's legal custodian," she said.

In addition, her brother works for the university. She said that because she and her brother cannot qualify as domestic partners, they are not eligible for Health Net insurance.

Cary said that if the three of them were recognized as a family unit, her son would be entitled to free tuition for a certain number of units, like the children of many USC employees.

"Under the domestic partnership policies of many of these universities and corporations (on the flier), we would be considered a family unit," she said.

Dishman said that not every couple could qualify as domestic partners.

"It's not about anyone just saying, 'Oh, my friend is my partner and wants to use the Health Center.' There is a list of criteria to be met to qualify as one."

Others who spoke against the protest said that marriage is the only way partners should be recognized.

"They shouldn't have these rights, not until the Supreme Court says they can be married," said Gina Vioria, a graduate

student. "Either way, sex outside of marriage is a sin, just as much as homosexuality is."

Marty Dupuis, a graduate student and teaching assistant in political science, is the co-chair of the student task force.

Dupuis said his life with his partner, Frank Kimby, is directly affected by the lack of a domestic partners provision at USC.

"Like any family or husband and wife, Frank and I discussed whether we should move out here," Dupuis said. "He decided to give up his job to accompany me here. He was willing to support me and my dream of being a college professor."

As a result of moving to Los Angeles, he said his partner lost his health insurance. Dupuis said they now pay more money by paying for benefits separately.

"Frank and I have been together for seven years through a lot of different changes," he said. "Other friends of mine have been in marriages that haven't worked."

"It's a testament to our relationship that we've been able to survive," Dupuis said.

On Tuesday, Dupuis and Kimby met with Michael Jackson, vice president of student affairs, to discuss the issue of student partnerships.

"He was very supportive and listened to our concerns," Kimby said. "I believe he will be taking the issue to the administration."



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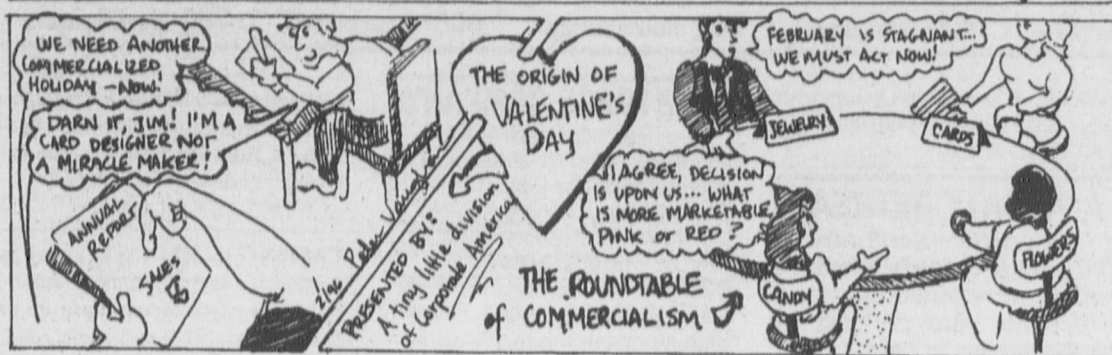
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by Jim



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<b>DON'T BE A MENACE</b> (R) 4:25 6:25 8:20	<b>BLACK SHEEP</b> (PG13) 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
<b>BLACK SHEEP</b> (PG13) 4:10 6:10 8:10 * NO WED/THURS BARGAIN	John Travolta/Christian Slater <b>BROKEN ARROW</b> (R) 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:55 * NO G.A.T.'s ACCEPTED * NO WED/THURS BARGAIN

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## Romero

(Continued from page 24)

divers in the conference," Shaffer said. "There's a lot of talent in the Pac-10, with the women in particular, but she has to be at the top in my opinion."

After finishing second in 1995 and third in 1994 at the championships, the senior would like to win at least one Pac-10 championship in her career.

"This is my last year, so I really want to do well," Romero said. "There's a lot of good competition from Stanford and UCLA, but I'm confident that myself and the team will do well."

If Romero sounds confident, it's for good reason. Ever since her two older sisters got her into diving at the age of six, Romero has excelled on the boards.

Her impressive résumé of successes in international competitions includes a sixteenth-place finish in the three-meter event at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, and a tenth-place finish in the three-meter at the World Cup this past summer.

Romero plans to once again represent her native Mexico at

the Atlanta Olympics this summer. But this time she'll have her past experiences to help her.

"I think swimming in the 1992 Olympics was a big stepping stone," Romero said. "I just want to keep improving this year."

"Her experience in high level international competitions will really help her," agreed Shaffer. "Her diving is probably at a greater level than when she participated in the Olympics in 1992."

Romero has demonstrated steady improvement with Shaffer's help; he's a new diving coach this season, and the match seems to be good.

"I've been able to help her with setting goals and planning a strategy for achieving those goals," Shaffer said.

"Sometimes it's good to have different coaches because sometimes a new coach might see some mistakes, while a coach who's used to seeing you dive might not see those mistakes," agreed Romero.

One of those things that Shaffer has helped her with is improving her entries.

"She does some great things from the board to the water, but we've been working a lot with

her entries in the water," Shaffer said. "It's very important, because it's the last thing the judges see."

While working with Romero this season, Shaffer was most impressed with her consistency.

"She's probably one of the most consistent practice divers and heat divers," he said. "She very seldom makes a major mistake, and she's always near the top of the competitions."

Despite her normal consistency, one of Romero's most disappointing moments in diving occurred as a result of a mistake. While diving at the NCAA zone qualifying in 1995, Romero injured her hand when she hit it on the board, and as a result lost her opportunity to go to the NCAA championships.

That mistake may be on Romero's mind as she steps onto the board with a possible Pac-10 championship on the line. But she will also remember that she won the three-meter event against Stanford earlier in the season.

"Diving is a unique sport," Shaffer said. "The best diver doesn't always win — the diver that is most consistent and minimizes their mistakes is usually the diver that comes out on top."

## Jones

(Continued from page 24)

besides Jones — David Crouse and Maurice Strong — ran into foul trouble.

Bibby said that not worrying about Jones falls into the team's new "straight ahead" philosophy where you worry about yourself only.

"We're not focusing on Vonnie," Bibby said. "We tell the players to focus on what you need to do. Look straight ahead and see the prize."

If Jones' teammates had any reservations about his return, they weren't evident. Jones apologized to the team upon his return and Bibby said he had a good first practice.

"I didn't need an explanation (for his disappearance)," USC guard Stais Boseman said of Jones' return. "I'm just happy to see him back and not throwing everything away."

USC (11-12 overall, 4-7 in the Pacific 10 Conference) will be facing a better Arizona State team than the one it beat, 80-67, on Jan. 20 in Tempe. Arizona State (8-11, 3-7) has been 3-3 over its last six games, beating Washington and losing by only two points to Arizona last week.

Now, as always, USC's main task will be to control ASU's backcourt duo of Ron Riley and Jeremy Veal, which combines for an average of 39.3 points per game.

In the last meeting between the two teams, however, USC made life miserable for Riley and Veal, who combined to shoot 15-for-41 from the field.

"The whole thing is stopping Riley and Veal," Boseman said. "If we can stop them, we will be all right."

After that game, USC plays Arizona in an 11:30 a.m. meeting on Saturday, also at the Sports Arena.

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Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0104

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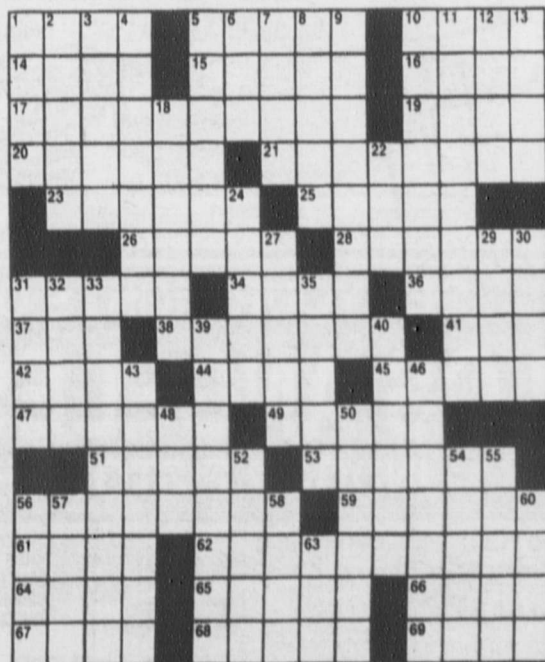
- 1 Food maven Greene
- 5 Kind of mouth
- 10 Field food
- 14 Cuba o Puerto Rico
- 15 Live to — old age
- 16 Scrabble piece
- 17 King of Corn
- 19 Eftsoon
- 20 Straight
- 21 Wandered
- 23 Having new faith
- 25 Easy pace
- 26 — Bryant Ford
- 28 Beautifully imaginative
- 31 — Calais
- 34 Singer Stookey
- 36 Wishing site
- 37 Former auto inits.
- 38 Supermarket gizmo
- 41 It's sometimes crushed
- 42 Wisdom
- 44 Certain G.M. car
- 45 — in the bucket
- 47 Victimize
- 49 Alabama march town
- 51 Proceeds
- 53 Harvestman
- 56 Waders

#### DOWN

- 1 "The Whales of August" actress
- 2 According to
- 3 Type type
- 4 Superior bottom
- 5 Ballplayer's goal, with "the"
- 6 Aztec treasure
- 7 Salon job
- 8 "Lulu," e.g.
- 9 Have another bite
- 10 Essentials
- 11 It's found at the end of a lane
- 12 Natural balm
- 13 Tape
- 16 Diminishes
- 22 Nigerian native
- 24 Asian kingdom
- 27 Territory
- 29 Fictional ensign
- 59 Some computers
- 61 Money-changer's cut
- 62 Purse item
- 64 Powell or Scott: Abbr.
- 65 "Dallas" miss
- 66 Basso Pinza
- 67 Don't strike!
- 68 Scare off
- 69 Ophelia or Laertes, e.g.

#### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HALLS ASHE MEIN  
ELIOT MOOR EDGE  
WASTENOTWANTNOT  
SIT NOES YEARS  
SCAB ARLO  
RICHMANPOORMAN  
DELI ASIN ATE  
UNO POMMELS BOX  
MEN OPIE WELT  
BEALLDENDALL  
ELLE DOES  
ALONE AIRE STU  
GOODNEWSBADNEWS  
RAZE SOIL EERIE  
AMER POSE EVANS



Puzzle by Fran and Lou Sablin

- |                             |                         |                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 30 Jockey's need            | 48 Plastic — Band       | 55 Ancient fly catcher   |
| 31 Feeler                   | 50 Calaveras competitor | 56 "Macbeth" trio        |
| 32 Love, to Livy            | 52 Out of fashion       | 57 " — Ideas" (1950 hit) |
| 33 Twisty-leaved tree       | 54 Higgins's prodigy    | 58 Bank deposit          |
| 35 Big name in auto racing  |                         | 60 Camera device         |
| 39 Looked the other way     |                         | 63 Golfer's position     |
| 40 New Jersey's — Mountains |                         |                          |
| 43 Metal fastener           |                         |                          |
| 46 Spotted                  |                         |                          |

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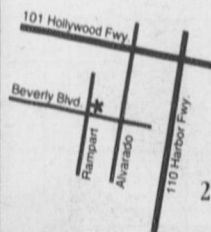


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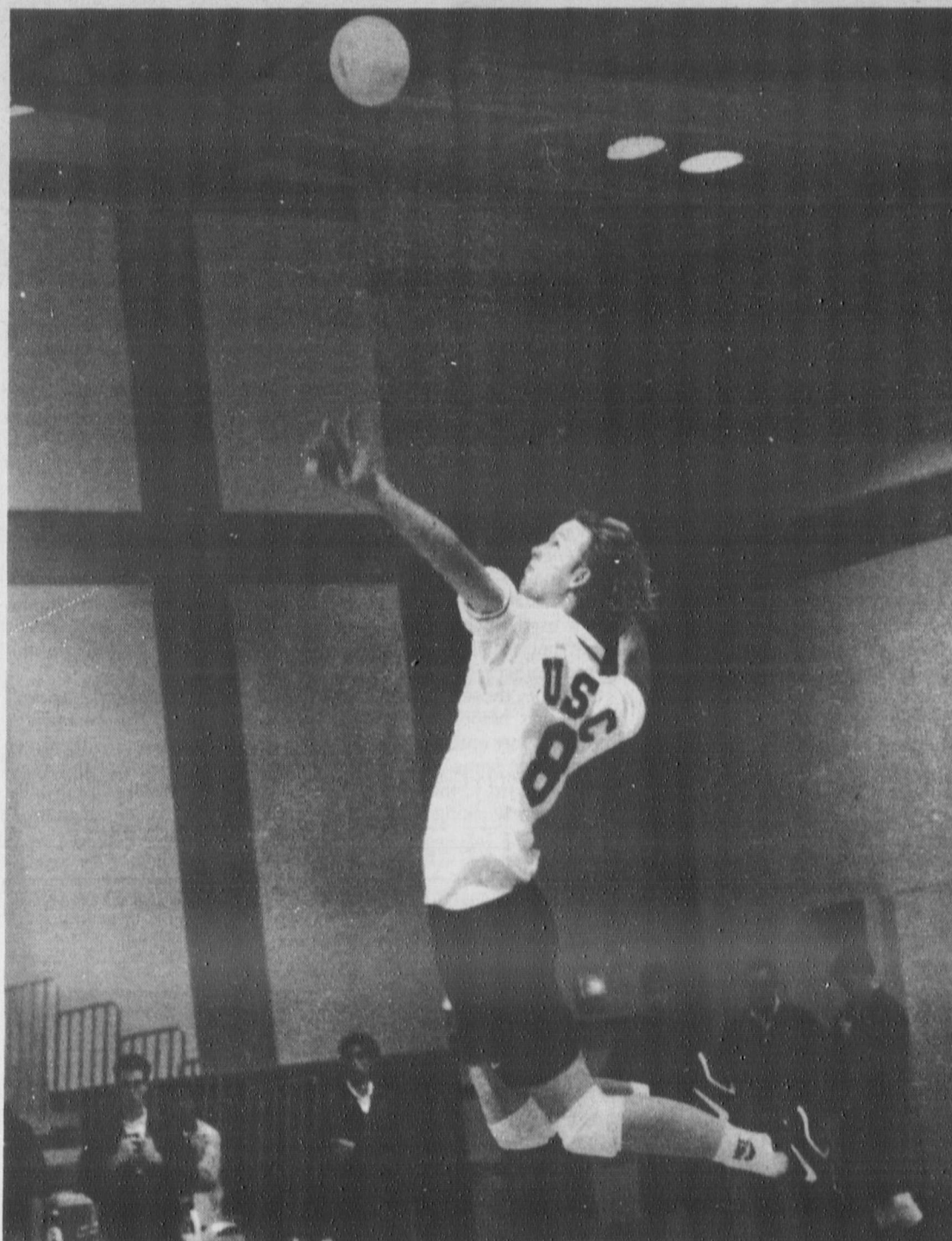
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By Joseph Soqui  
Assistant Sports Editor

His skateboard has pictures of a driver's license and a bottle of Olde English on the bottom of it. He doesn't dress to impress; he goes for the comfortable look instead.

He looks like a typical California surfer dude with long shorts and a plain T-shirt.

His long locks and bushy goatee give him a striking resemblance to a blond Alexi Lalas and, unlike most volleyball players, a suit and tie just don't do him justice.

Rather, he has the look of those who play their home games at McDonald's Swim Stadium with a net and a goalie.

But according to USC Volleyball Coach Jim McLaughlin, it isn't the image. It's the player.

"I sure like Gabe Gardner's

package," McLaughlin said. "He is the prototype volleyball player. Just look at his body."

While his 6-foot-8 frame makes him second tallest on the team and, indeed, perfect among the Trojan spikers, it's his attitude on the court that conflicts with his outer shell.

"I guess I'm pretty mellow," Gardner said. "I'm a real relaxed, focused player. I know when it counts and I know when the fire needs to be brought out. That's when I show my emotions."

Although the freshman doesn't have the characteristics of the typical volleyball player, his career goal in the collegiate years is to not only be the best player on this campus but in the nation as well.

"I want to be the greatest college freshman and the best college player this year," Gardner said. "I don't want to be a great player by my senior year. I want to be a great player by my sophomore year."

His early numbers have him in the hunt for Freshman of the Year awards with 296 kills, good for second on the team, and 72 digs, also good for second.

"I like the way he thinks about the game," McLaughlin said. "Once he learns how to go hard from start to finish, he will become an elite volleyball player in this nation."

And while this attitude has been that of every freshman athlete who has walked amidst the hallowed trophies of Heritage Hall, USC volleyball player Gardner's mental state isn't just talk, but a lifestyle.

"Just focusing, being able to concentrate when it counts, being able to handle the pressure," Gardner said. "You run

into a lot of situations at any school where you know they're going to judge you.

"You know they're going to serve to you. When the ball is coming your way, you can either fail or you can take it upon yourself to do great."

It's easy to see why he has a large amount of self confidence. After all, he's not used to either being wrong or unsuccessful.

In order to become the best, Gardner must be mentally prepared to take what comes with being the best. This seems an easy task when you consider that Gardner was valedictorian of his class at San Clemente High School.

Although education is the reason for attending the university, at this given time, volleyball holds a higher priority.

"My main focus has to be volleyball," Gardner said. "I've even taken a lighter load this semester so I can focus on volleyball."

This isn't the normal attitude for one whose GPA in high school was 4.17; however, desired pressures have driven this new attitude.

"I have a lot of seniors right now who rely heavily on me to help bring our team back to the NCAA title," Gardner said.

But now is the time where he must pay for those goals, a necessary step Gardner has welcomed since he signed his letter of intent.

Like most highly-recruited high school seniors around the Southland, Gardner was wooed by both UCLA and USC.

"It was a coin toss between UCLA and USC," Gardner said. "I almost went there."

The deciding factors included

(See Gardner, page 22)

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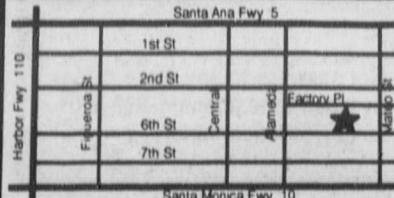
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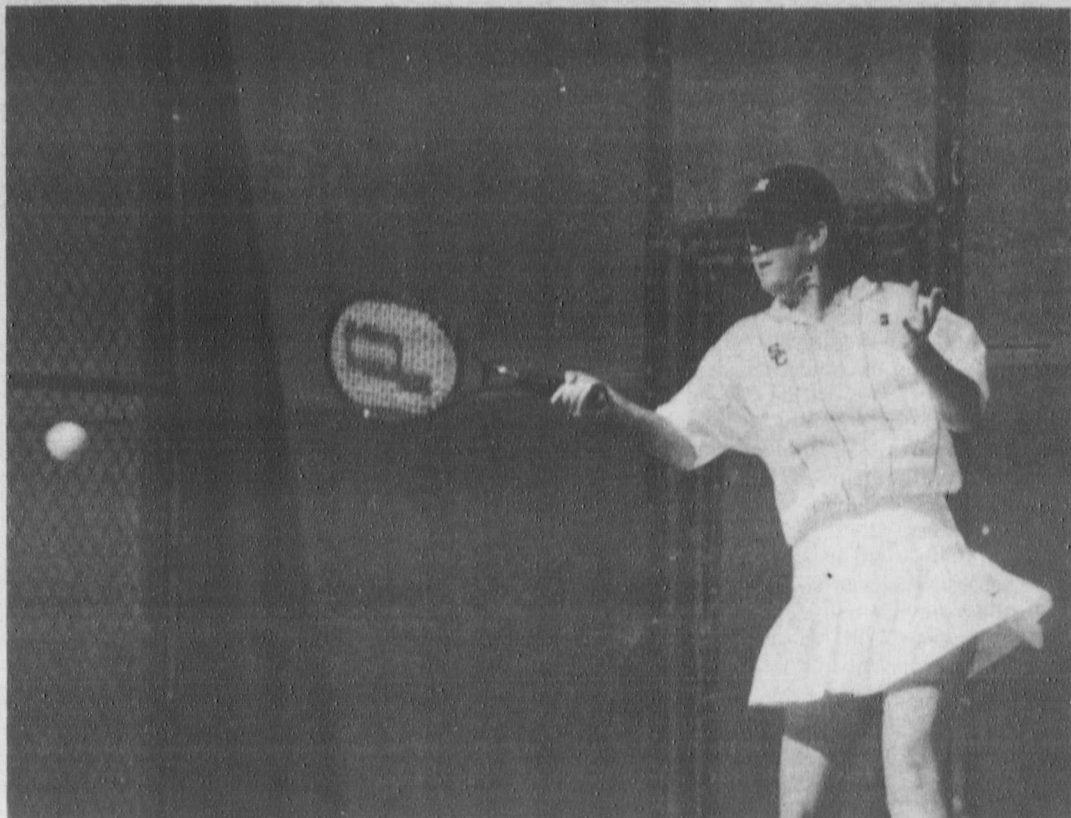
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Troy Witt / Daily Trojan

Nicole London helped the USC women's tennis team beat Loyola Marymount, 8-0, Wednesday.

## Women's tennis whips Lions

By Mark Weaver  
Staff Writer

In a match that was never in doubt, the USC women's tennis team crushed Loyola Marymount, 8-0, at Marks Stadium on Wednesday.

The contest marked the fourth time in five games that USC (4-1) has featured a new player at the No. 1 position.

The latest No. 1, Ditta Huber, made short work of LMU's Mara Colaizzi, 6-2, 6-2, and improved her individual record to a team best of 5-0. Despite her accomplishments, though, her tenure at the top may be short-lived.

"I don't think [winning today] will make any difference

because he switches everyone around so much that tomorrow I could play No. 3 and Suzie [Italiano] could play No. 1," Huber said. "I don't think these matches hold any specific weight."

By shutting out LMU (2-4), Gallien's lineup decisions may now be even tougher.

No. 2 Nicole London rolled to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Anna Zaricki, while No. 3 Suzie Italiano annihilated the Lions' Laura Gross, 6-0, 6-3.

No. 4 Karolina Baklarova, making her home debut, swept Laura Ruben, 6-0, 6-0.

Meanwhile, Pam Trump and Amber Basica had a relative struggle against their LMU opponents. Trump, playing No.

5 singles, beat Amy Labetich 7-5, 6-1. Basica, at No. 6, lost the first set before winning, 3-6, 7-5, 6-0, against the Lions' Lia Bunker.

In doubles, the familiar London and Italiano duo cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 victory in USC's No. 1 spot. While the No. 2 pairing of Baklarova and Basica didn't play, Sabrina Lau and Ayisha Zaman — temporarily out of the singles rotation — won 6-4, 6-2 at No. 3 doubles.

The 8-0 shellacking was really only a warm-up for today's match against Pepperdine in Malibu, where Gallien played and coached for 11 years.

"I'm sure that Richard has got to be a little bit antsy," Huber said. "There's a lot riding on this (for him)."



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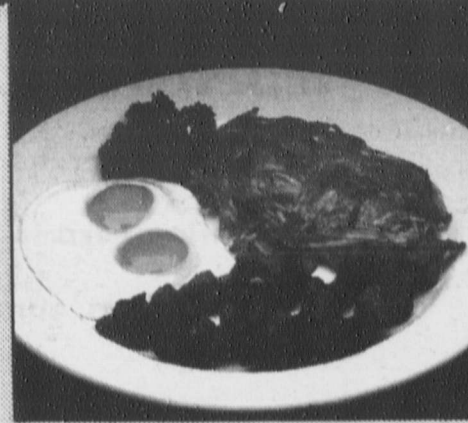
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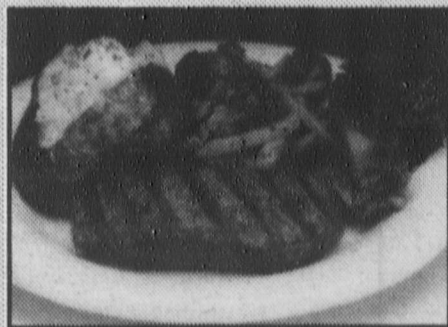


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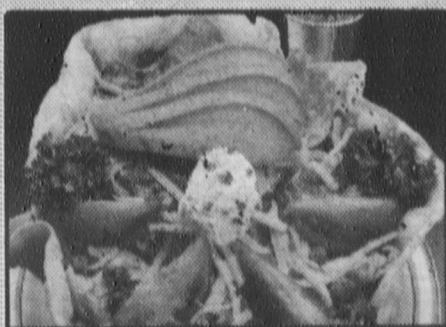
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The USC women's basketball team split with the Arizona schools when they visited USC four weeks ago.

Troy Witt/Daily Trojan

## Thompson

(Continued from page 24)

If Thompson is not on the court, USC (10-10, 5-6 Pac-10) will be without its most consistent and productive player. Her 23.2 points per game are almost 13 better than the next-highest scorer, and her 9.9 rebounds per game are 4.6 more than anyone else.

USC's experience in playing without Thompson is limited, but it does have some. Earlier this season against Kansas, Thompson played just 15 minutes after being benched for arriving late to the game. At halftime, with her yet to play, the Women of Troy led by two points. USC lost, however, 82-77.

"The other players will step up," Williams said. "With her in there it's a big plus, but I think we have players who can pick up the slack if she's not in there. I think we demonstrated that

against Kansas."

USC's problems don't end with Thompson. Starting center Adrain Williams had the flu this week, forward Rashida Jeffrey's tender knees are acting up and guard Shannon Kartz was suffering from an ankle injury. Williams questioned whether any of them would be 100 percent by game time.

Arizona State is 5-14 overall and 1-9 in the Pac-10, led by junior forward Molly Tuter, who leads the team in points (14.6) and rebounds (6.4).

Arizona State lost to USC, 73-61, earlier in the season at the Lyon Center. But after trailing by double-digits most of the game, the Sun Devils trailed by just two points with about 8:30 left in the game. A late USC run put the game away.

"I think we could have played better," Thompson said. "You can't let up on (ASU) once you get a big lead. You have to keep playing hard for 40 minutes."

Defensively, Williams plans to use the same tactic of forcing outside shots that he used against Cal last weekend. Though the Golden Bears burned USC with a 9 of 16 three-point performance in the first half, the Women of Troy don't expect a repeat performance.

"We've been forcing opponents to shoot from farther out," Williams said. "I don't think this Arizona State team is a team with shooters like Cal."

USC will face Arizona (14-5, 5-5) on Saturday at the McKale Center at 12:30 p.m. Arizona coasted to an 87-72 victory against the Women of Troy earlier this season.

The Wildcats, losers of three of their last four games, are led by sophomore forward Adia Barnes and senior point guard Brenda Pantoja. Barnes averages a team-high 16.3 points and 8.1 rebounds per game, while Pantoja's 8.8-assist average leads the conference.

## Gardner

(Continued from page 20)

the rest of the team, the USC tradition, and, most importantly, McLaughlin.

"I love everything McLaughlin does," Gardner said. "He's really been encouraging to many on this young team, especially myself."

"He keeps pushing me and it keeps me on track. I love his style."

McLaughlin said that the recruiting process was tedious and spanned from the summer before Gardner's junior year until signing day.

"It was a two-year process," McLaughlin said. "We had no idea where he would commit."

After Gardner signed with USC, he was introduced to Trojan volleyball style as a member of the World University Games team, coached by McLaughlin.

"I don't know how to show my appreciation at all for giving me a chance (to play)," Gardner said.

While representing the United States, Gardner learned the concept of being a team player. Instead of receiving all the opportunities, he would instead have to give some up to his teammates.

"When I played with the National B Team, I guess I got used to that style," Gardner said. "You're not going to be the guy who gets all the sets. You want it to be that way because it takes some pressure off you, knowing that there are guys all around me that can put the ball away."

Gardner said the experience gave him the confidence that most freshman don't have when they enter college. Although he played a smaller role on the team, it gave him the realization that he can play among the nation's elite. A good feeling, to be sure, for one with three more



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## Volleyball Top 10

Team	Record
1. Hawaii	7-0
2. Long Beach State	7-0
3. UC Santa Barbara	4-2
4. UCLA	6-2
5. Stanford	5-1
6. CS Northridge	4-4
7. Pepperdine	6-3
8. Ball State	7-2
9. USC	3-4
10. Brigham Young	4-2

Credit: USA Today/AVCA Coaches and Volleyball Magazine

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## USA Today/CNN Men's Basketball Poll

Team	Record	Pts.	Pvs
1. Massachusetts (29)	23-0	797	1
2. Kentucky (2)	20-1	767	2
3. Connecticut (1)	22-1	727	4
4. Cincinnati	18-2	657	5
5. Kansas	9-2	642	3
6. Villanova	20-3	611	6
7. Utah	19-3	577	7
8. Penn State	18-2	550	10
9. Wake Forest	16-3	548	9
10. Virginia Tech	18-2	452	12
11. Purdue	19-4	441	13
12. Texas Tech	20-1	407	14
13. Georgetown	19-5	391	8
14. Memphis	17-4	341	16
15. Arizona	18-4	319	15
16. Syracuse	18-6	317	18
17. North Carolina	16-7	300	11
18. UCLA	16-6	225	17
19. Iowa	17-6	190	20
20. Stanford	15-5	169	24
21. Boston College	15-5	124	21
22. Eastern Michigan	18-2	106	23
23. Louisville	17-7	93	25
24. Iowa St.	17-5	89	—
25. Michigan	15-8	78	19

Others receiving votes: Georgia Tech 46, Auburn 37, Mississippi St. 34, Wisconsin-Green Bay 23, Arkansas-Little Rock 21, Clemson 16, George Washington 12, Davidson 10, Maryland 10, California 9, New Mexico 8, Georgia 7, Marquette 7, Missouri 7, College of Charleston 6, Duke 5, Long Beach St. 5, New Orleans 5, Jacksonville 4, South Carolina 4, Washington 4, Arkansas 2, Bradley 2, Texas 2, Tulane 2, Drexel 1, Providence 1, Santa Clara 1, Virginia Commonwealth 1.

## AP Men's Basketball Poll

Team	Record	Pts.	Pvs
1. Massachusetts (59)	23-0	1,619	1
2. Kentucky (5)	20-1	1,563	2
3. Connecticut (1)	22-1	1,495	4
4. Villanova	20-3	1,383	6
5. Kansas	19-2	1,335	3
6. Cincinnati	18-2	1,283	5
7. Utah	19-3	1,246	7
8. Wake Forest	16-3	1,147	9
9. Penn St.	18-2	1,065	10
10. Virginia Tech	18-2	1,025	11
11. Purdue	19-4	900	14
12. Texas Tech	20-1	871	13
13. Arizona	18-4	847	16
14. Georgetown	19-5	778	8
15. Memphis	17-4	742	15
16. Syracuse	18-6	643	18
17. North Carolina	16-7	477	12
18. UCLA	16-6	455	17
19. Iowa	17-6	407	19
20. Stanford	15-5	341	25
21. Boston College	15-5	309	22
22. Iowa St.	17-5	303	21
23. E. Michigan	18-2	203	24
24. Louisville	17-7	152	20
25. Mississippi St.	16-5	118	—

Others receiving votes: Wis.-Green Bay 103, Georgia Tech 62, George Washington 49, Michigan 38, Arkansas 35, Auburn 26, Marquette 21, New Mexico 18, Texas 14, Coll. of Charleston 13, Washington 12, California 8, Missouri 5, Michigan St. 3, Providence 3, Tulane 3, Clemson 2, Indiana 2, Bradley 1.

## AP Women's Basketball Poll

Team	Record	Pts.	Pvs
1. Georgia (39)	20-2	975	1
2. Louisiana Tech	21-1	927	2
3. Connecticut	22-3	890	3
4. Stanford	18-2	844	4
5. Tennessee	19-4	826	6
6. Texas Tech	19-2	770	7
7. Iowa	20-2	710	5
8. Old Dominion	19-2	699	10
9. Penn St.	19-5	634	12
10. Virginia	17-5	590	9
11. Wisconsin	18-4	565	8
12. Alabama	18-4	539	13
13. Vanderbilt	17-5	480	11
14. Duke	20-5	468	14
15. Oregon St.	16-4	428	16
16. N. Carolina St.	16-6	355	15
17. Florida	17-5	323	20
18. Colorado	20-6	290	19
19. Clemson	17-4	247	18
20. Auburn	17-5	236	22
21. Mississippi	15-7	196	17
22. Purdue	15-9	182	23
23. Stephen F. Austin	18-2	95	25
24. Oklahoma St.	17-5	92	21
25. Notre Dame	16-5	88	24

Other receiving votes: Montana 34, Arkansas 27, DePaul 23, Southwest Missouri St. 19, Southern Mississippi 17, George Washington 11, Kansas 11, Middle Tennessee St. 10, Northwestern 10, Ohio St. 8, Texas A&M 7, Colorado St. 6, Maryland 6, Mississippi St. 5, Southern Methodist 5, Utah 5, Kent 4, Nebraska 3, Michigan St. 1, North Carolina 1, Villanova 1.

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Sean Kearns

Sports Editor



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It's not like joining the dark side, but many vow that they will never become hooked on the world of rotisserie leagues.

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Once you join a league, you draft players and then the change begins.

Every morning you must have the paper in order to see last night's statistics for your players.

Then you begin to notice other players you might want on your team.

Next thing, your nights are consumed concocting trades and determining who should be in the line-up next week.

Next, you're joining America On-line in order to get game statistics hours after games end, and then to get teams statistics.

You become happy when Hersey Hawkins goes for twenty-three points, seven rebounds and four steals and distraught when Nick Anderson has five points and two rebounds.

If Derrick Coleman misses a bunch a games you feel as if he was out to spite you.

It's happened. You have been consumed by the world of rotisserie.

For those who aren't familiar with rotisserie leagues, here is a basic explanation:

Fans of any of the big four sports (basketball, football, baseball and hockey) come together and have a draft or auction of current players. So, each fan has a roster of NBA, NFL, MLB or NHL players. Statistics are used to determine standings in the league and the eventual winners.

Just like the pros, there are two ways to build a ball club. The first is through the draft and the second is through trades and picking up free agents.

And trade talks always begin casually — normally one scrub for another.

But somehow talks of trading Antonio McDyess for Dana Barros become talks of Shaquille O'Neal and Reggie Miller for Shawn Kemp, Armon Gilliam and Alvin Robertson.

But at times, the talks turn into blockbusters:

Alonzo Mourning and J.R. Rider for Miller, Barros and Walt Williams.

The great thing is that there are no salary caps to mess with. Nor is there any worries about team chemistry.

The mathematics behind the deals are simple.

The M.A.S.H. Unit needed three-point shooting and got Miller and Barros.

Los Gritos needed blocked shots and rebounding and got Mourning.

So now there is more to look at.

If Mourning starts going off, you wonder why he wasn't producing for your team. If Barros gets benched, you begin to think M.L. Carr is out to get you.

It's great vicious cycle.

But much like a man whose arteries are almost entirely clogged, rotisserie is not for the faint of heart.

# Sports

## Jones returns but won't play tonight



Troy Witt/Daily Trojan

USC center Avondre Jones returned after missing for a week, but will not play in tonight's Arizona State game.

By Christian Ewell  
Associate Sports Editor

Avondre Jones is back, but when the USC men's basketball team steps onto the floor tonight against Arizona State at the Sports Arena (7 p.m. tipoff), he won't be playing.

Jones returned to the team on Tuesday. On Wednesday, he practiced for the first time in a week.

USC Coach Henry Bibby said that Jones could expect to see game action no sooner than next Thursday's UCLA game. Still, Bibby said, Jones would have to go to class, attend study table and weightlifting sessions and practice hard if he wants any hope of playing next week.

"If he does what we ask him

to do," Bibby said, "we're entertaining the thought of him playing (after this weekend.) He has to prove that he deserves to be a part of what we're trying to do."

Earlier, there were reports that Jones left the team because of anguish over the firing of former coach Charlie Parker last Wednesday.

Jones refused interview requests on Wednesday, but the *Los Angeles Times* reported Wednesday that his brief sabbatical was not a protest over Parker's firing and that he is "100 percent" behind Bibby.

Jones' absence will not be easy to shrug off. USC became shorthanded last weekend when its only post players

(See Jones, page 19)

## Women of Troy playing with semi-healthy Thompson

By Greg Keraghosian  
Assistant Sports Editor

Just as the USC women's basketball team was trying to make a late run in the Pacific 10 Conference, it faces as scary a prospect as it has had all season: an injured Tina Thompson.

Though she is expected to play, the star forward's status is in question as the Women of Troy head to Arizona for two games this weekend, the first one against Arizona State tonight at 7.

Thompson, a junior who has yet to miss a collegiate game, suffered strained shoulder ligaments against California that caused her to miss practice Tuesday. USC Coach Fred Williams said the injury was probably sustained going for a rebound late in the game, though the injury didn't take its toll until after the game.

Williams gave Thompson an 80 percent chance of playing against the Sun Devils, though he was pessimistic about her playing full-speed.

(See Thompson, page 22)



Elliott Mebane/Daily Trojan

USC's Tina Thompson will be playing with a slightly injured shoulder.

## Romero shoulders big burden

By Ryan Hochgesang  
Staff Writer

Next weekend, the pressure could all be placed on her shoulders.

Her performance could decide whether USC wins its first women's swimming Pac-10 championship since 1985.

But USC diver Maria Elena Romero isn't nervous.

"It's a lot of pressure, but I'm confident that I'll do well," Romero said. "I think I've improved a lot this year, and I've really been doing well in the dual meets, so I think I have a good chance."

While the No. 5 USC women's swimming team will compete in the Pac-10 championships this Thursday through Saturday at Belmont Plaza in Long Beach, the diving portion of the championships won't take place until the following weekend.

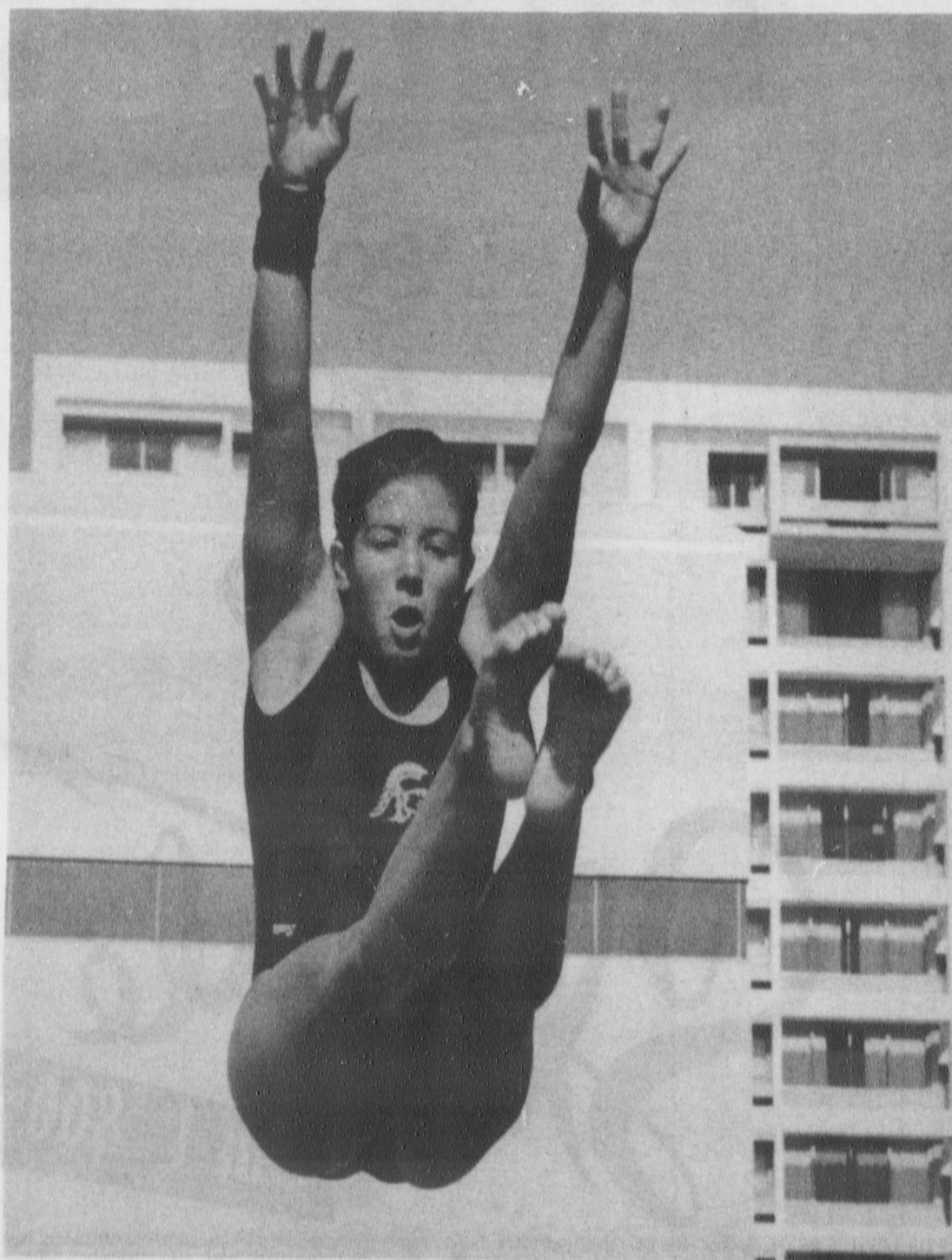
Because of this, the diving competitions will decide the Pac-10 champion if the top scores are close after the swimming events.

And while USC has only finished third the past two years, it is expected to challenge perennial power Stanford for the title this year. Especially after the Women of Troy upset the then-top-ranked Cardinal, 153-147, earlier in the season.

But USC diving coach Jeff Shaffer is confident that Romero will come through with a good diving performance.

"Maria has proven throughout the season that she is one of the best and most consistent

(See Romero, page 19)



Troy Witt/Daily Trojan

USC diver Maria Elena Romero's performance is vital to the team's Pac-10 title hopes.